# VDEPEND



QUESTIONS OF SPORT: £40,000 TO BE WON

See page 22

TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 1996

## Everyone in there will have been killed in five minutes. It is a terrible, terrible thing to do'

Phil Reeves reports from near Pervomayskoye as the Russians take on 150 Chechen rebels

The morning had been as still, cold and grey as a gravestone. Then, at 9am sharp, the onslaught began. Huge thuds and crashes rolled across the frozen landscape of northern Dagestan and echoed around the foothills of neighbouring Chechnya. The shadow boxing and posturing were over: Russia's military machine was moving in.

Six helicopter gunships cir-cled the village of Pervomayskoye, blasting it with rockets as they recled against the skyline like huge, malevolent insects. Flares came tum-

#### Inside

Tough-talking Yeltsin sends in the troops – page 9

Tragic results of a bloody drama page 15

bling out of them, decoys against heat-seeking missiles. The Russian artillery opened up, like ghastly timpani.

If this was, as claimed, a surgical operation, to free more than 100 hostages held by Salman Raduyev and his Chechen fighters, what would a full-scale assault look and

Shell after shell slammed into the settlement, which soon lay beneath a gauze of dust and smoke. Some came from smallcr Russian guns; others came from tanks, gruff hammer blows, tollowed by deeper thumps could hear the whoosh of Grad missiles and rocket-propelled grenades -and the churning

sound of small arms fire. At one point, a Russian tank began spewing black smoke and then it exploded - an apparently rare triumph for Raduvey's men in this unequal and grotesque contest. By lunchtime, the heart of the village lay hehind a curtain of flame. And yet for most of the afternoon the assault continued uninterrupted. It seemed the Russians, who had planned to take the place in a day, were finding it harder than they ex-pected to overcome the 150 rebels. Almost every building in the village seemed to have been hlasted, but we could still hear the crackle of machine guns as

the Chechens fought back. As darkness fell with the village still at least partly in Chechen hands, Russian offi-cials said they had killed 60 rehels and freed nine of the

captives.
They admitted to only four Russian soldiers killed and 14 wounded. But earlier reports had told of of "several" Russian armoured troop carriers destroyed.

We could see a gaping hole in the roof of the village school where, according to local Dagestanis, some of the hostages were being held. This, however, was denied by the Russian Federal Security Scrvice whose chief, General Mikhail Barsukov, had personally given the order for the

battle to begin. The school, a long white structure on the village's eastern flank, was consumed by flames. By now, the helicopter gunships had drawn back and were flying in huge circles. around the perimeter of the

stood there were three big Russian field guns, well out of the range of the Chechens. who were armed only with assault rifles, heavy machine guns and rocket propelled grenade launchers.

We watched the Russian gunners lounging around, hands in



A radio call came through from their command centre and they quickly loaded their cannons with 122mm shells, ducked briefly, and fired.

Then they lounged about again, like youths standing at a bus shelter. That they may have wiped out their fellow country-

ordered to make a full-scale attack after Chechen gunmen were reported to have started killing hostage ing scores of men, women and children - seemed to be a mat-

ter of spine-chilling unconcern. "What am I going to do?" said Sulleman Makhodov, as he watched the battle from a ridge. The 60-year-old pensioner has lived in Pervomayskoye all his

life. "I have a wife and four

How will we live?"

His friend, another elderly refugee, chipped in, trembling with rage: "Everyone in there will have been killed in five minutes. It is a terrible thing to do."

It was hard to watch this spectacle without feeling deeply sickened. No one can sensibly yar and taking 2,000 hostages,

then exposing more than 100

captives to a likely death at the hands of an outraged Russia. Yet it was equally impossible to watch such destruction without smelling the awful whiff of political expediency.

Though ill and unpopular.

Boris Yeltsin has shown every symptom of a man preparing to run for re-election.

seemed to be in play.

He knows he must win back the respect of a nation in which

thunderously angry president

of us, the ego of an injured and

ship.
No effort was made to stop television cameras from recording the hattle from a grandstand position in a neighbouring village. Rather it was a spectacle that the Kremlin seemed to want us - or at least their fellow Russians - to witness.

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Consultants are quitting acute psychiatry in the National Health Service because of the increasing risks which patients are facing from overloaded NHS services.

Dr Massimo Riccio. 43, a consultant at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, who left the NHS for the private sector two weeks ago, said he had resigned after having to deal with more patients, who are more severely ill, with less beds and facilities".

He will be followed soon by Dr Cosmo Hallstrom, 49, a consultant at the Gordon Hospital, in London, who said the stress of deciding whether to dis-charge patients before they are ready to go, to admit others who are more acutely ill. was producing "burn out" among staff. Each time there was a suicide or killing, he said, "I think, there but for the grace of God, go I."

When people get scared they take notice: that is what is happening

with Britain's creaking system - Leading article, page 14

Labour vesterday called for a moratorium on further bed closures in the wake of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' report on homicides and suicides. John Bowis, the junior health minister, conceded that "we must make sure we have the range of beds to back up the

community services". It is the lack of those which Dr Riccio says has left hospitals dealing with an increasingly disturbed mix of patients. "A lot of funding has gone into very worthwhile causes." Dr Riccio

said. These included the court diversion scheme to place mentally ill offenders in hospital rather than prison, and homelessness projects. They have worked well but unearthed a lot of otherwise undetected menual illness", he said.

> pressure on acute beds, while the secure units meant to take the potentially most violent patients had silted up. "I recently had an acutely psychotic patient in a very disturbed

The result was mounting

state on an open ward who was caught with two daggers under the bed. We spent three or four days phoning every secure unit in England. Scotland and Wales trying to find him a Consultants, he said, "now have to take risks in deciding

acutely ill. In cases like that, I am damned if I do and damned if I don't". Hunting for beds, page 8

who to discharge, in order to

admit patients who we know are

## Psychiatrists quit | Minister backs down over risks to patients on prisoners in chains

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent.

Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister, yesterday made a humiliating apology for misleading the Commons over the

shackling of pregnant prisoners. Her "unreserved apology" came as the Government prcpared to soften its controversial chaining policy.
Faced with strong criticism

and the threat of court action over "inhumane and degrading" treatment, ministers look set to meet medical concerns that no mother-to-be should be held in chains in a maternity unit and that prison staff should remain outside the labour room. Ministers are considering demand-ing a risk assessment for women before any are put in chains to attend court, child custody hearings or hospital appointments. Richard Tilt, the acting bead of the Prison Service, admitted

he was "not happy with the out-

come of the present policy."

17 WAS ME WHO GAVE ANVE THE WRONG &

He promised to look at a case, which was highlighted in the Independent on Sunday, of an unconvicted woman prisoner seriously ill in a hospital Aids ward who was held in chains 24 hours a day. Yesterday lawyers for the woman, a drug addict with no previous convictions,

accused of conspiracy to supply heroin worth about £300, failed in an emergency bail application. Suspicions that Downing Street put pressure on ministers to back down came as Ms Widdecombe took to the Commons floor. She then retracted a claim she made last week that London's Whittington hospital, which deals with shackled inmates from Holloway, the country's largest women's prison, had not raised concerns about the

The minister blamed had advice from Prison Service officials. "I deeply regret that the advice which I had been given about this correspondence, and which I in turn gave to the House in good faith, was wrong. I offer my unreserved apologies

to the House," she said.

Labour's Home affairs spokesman, Jack Straw, said he was now writing to Mr Howard, to demand that the whole policy be reviewed.

'Minister for tronble', page 2

man for the last three years and

Sir Rocco has been been chief

executive for 13 years. Forte's

performance during those 13

Backs to the wall, page 16

Comment, page 17

years speaks for itself.

## I.Q. of 145 and Can't Remember?

A FAMOUS international publisher reports that there is a simple technique for acquiring a powerful memory which can pay you real dividends

in both business and social advancement. It works like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater popularity.

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#### Sir Rocco loosens his grip on Forte empire IN BRIEF

**Business** bypassed

Newbury businessmen have accused their MP of mislcading the press when he says they are in favour of the town's contro-Page 3 versiai bypass.

Drugs policy 'ineffective' The Government's policy of "getting tough" on drugs to reduce crime among young peo-nle will have little impact, according to a study that found no direct evidence that the two are linked.

Sir Rocco Forte relinquished some of his grip on the Forte restaurants and hotels empire when he bowed to shareholder power vesterday and split his double role as chairman and

chief executive. As a result, the City marked Granada's shares up 7p to 670p in expectation of victory in the bid battle which closes in eight

widely seen in the City as a last- also non-executive chairman ditch attempt to fend off a hostile £3.8bn takeover bid from Granada, the media to leisure conglomerate, which threatens to end forever the management links between the Forte family and the group they founded. Some saw the move as

"too hitle, too late". Sir Rocco's pesition as chairman will be taken over by Sir Anthony Tennant, who is group Page 7 days. Sir Rocco's move was deputy chairman. Sir Anthony.

of Christie's, the fine art auction house, said it was not the case that the bid was all over "bar the shorting". The new Eton and Cambridge-educated chairman sees his role as chairing the company's board and liaising with shareholders while Sir Rocco continues, at least for the next eight days, to run the day-to-day

funds". He said that some people were expecting Sir Rocco to move to chairman and to appoint a new chief executive. Mr Finnic expected the outcome to management of the group. Mark Finnie, a leading expert

Granada's chief executive, Gerry Robinson, was pre-dictably dismissive. "This amounts to nothing more than a titular change - Sir Anthony

"probably wins a degree of sup-port from certain institutional

on the bid, said the reshuffle Tennant has been deputy chair-

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Widdecombe's gaffe: Home Office right-winger's reputation for safe pair of hands is dealt blow by prison row

## 'Minister for trouble' hits an own goal

Chief Political Correspondent

Ann Widdecombe, the doughty prisons minister, was until yesterday regarded as one of the few ministers in the Major government with a safe pair of hands. Ms Widdecombe, 48, has been so frequently on the television defending the Home Office recently, one minister's wife described her as "the minister for trouble"

The daughter of a high-rank-ing civil servant in the Ministry



Bad press: Media coverage fuelled public nutrage



**JOJO MOYES** 

for their control.

Works worth millions of pounds

by Britain's most famous sculp-

tor, Henry Moore, were at the

centre Of a new dispute yester-

day as the sculptor's daughter

renewed her High Court battle

Mary Spencer Moore, who is acting under her married name

Mary Danowski, is appealing

against a High Court judgment

that passed ownership of her fa-ther's works to the Henry

Moore Foundation in Perry

In 1993, Ms Danowski was

left facing six-figure court costs

after failing in an attempt to claim £200m of her father's

sculptures and drawings from the trust he set up in the final

In 1976, she and her mother had helped Moore set up the

foundation to safeguard and

promote appreciation of his

work. A year later, and until his

death aged 88 in 1986, the

sculptor became an employee of

Green, Hertfordshire.

years of his life.

at the Royal Naval School in ingapore and a strict convent school at Bath, before studying latin at Oxford. She made her mark as secretary of the Oxford Union in 1971. After Oxford she went into marketing with Unilever, and was the financial administrator of London University until winning her Maidstone seat in 1987.

Quickly establishing herself as a right-winger, she co-founded Women and Families for Defence with Lady Olga Maitland to campaign against CND-sup-porting Labour MPs in the battle over Cruise missiles.

In the Commons, she attracted criticism from women for supporting David Alton's Bill to lower the ceiling on abortion to 18 weeks - her speeches on the abortion issue underlined her comhative and competent style. Despite being a supporter of hanging, anti-abortion and fiercely pro-nu-clear weapons, she failed to win promotion under Margaret Thatcher, gaining her first post as a parliamentary aide to Tristan Garel-Jones, the former Foreign Office minister.

A strong supporter of John Major, she was given her first ministerial post by him at Social Security, but saw more charismatic women promoted above her, including Virginia Bottomley and Gillian Shephard. Being only five foot one has perhaps made it more difficult for Ms Widdecombe to make an impact. It prohably contributed last week to the unprecedented barrage of abuse she faced for defending the Home Office over shackling women prisoners. A spinster with no children, she has been accused by Labour of having no knowledge of child hirth.

Daughter in new

court battle over

sculptor's legacy

The foundation was given his

personal collection, and for the

final 10 years of his life paid him

a £45,000-a-year salary. In re-

turn his works from that time

became the property of the

Lord Irvine QC, representing Ms Danowski, 48, told the

Court of Appeal yesterday that

the argument centred on the

ownership of the works creat-

ed during that period.
"It is a pity that a major dis-

pute such as this has arisen over

one of the country's greatest

artists of the century and the

body set up to protect his artis-tic legacy. But such a dispute has

arisen, and we owe it to the

artist that the dispute is correctly

He said that Ms Danowski

claimed that all her father's

artist's copies of his works were

his personal property and be-came part of his personal estate

Lord Irvine said the case

after his death.

resolved," Lord Irvine said.

HMF Enterprises, because of art world because of the chal-his worries about tax liabilities. lenge it presented to the Artist's



Her decisinn to become a Catholic in protest at the ordination of women was regarded as further evidence of her coldness towards women in general, a charge which she strongly denies. Her simple, straightforward approach to religion, as well as politics and most other things, was exemplified by her comment on her conversion to the Roman Catholic faith. She said then: "To have a church which calls a sin a sin and has done with it, is a blessed relief."

During the Christmas recess, as Minister of State for the Home Office, she defended

Copy Convention. The question

to be answered was how far

artistic freedom could be

hreached by "contractual fet-

ters". Under the unwritten con-

vention, sculptors are allowed

to produce up to two versions

of a limited edition which then

become their own property to

his family, hut after 1977 gave

the artist's copies to the foun-

dation. According to Lord Irvine, the foundation claimed

that hecause Moore was an employee of HMF Enterprises,

he had given up his rights to artists' copies and from the

very moment of creation, every-

thing he produced became the

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe ruled

against Ms Danowski and held

that the 1977 agreement stated

plainly that ownership of all works, including artist's copies,

was vested in the company.

At the High Court in 1993,

property of the company.

Moore used to give these to

be disposed of as they wish.

the Government on difficult issues, including CS gas spray for the police and the expulsion of the Saudi rebel, Mohammed al

The announcement that Ms Widdecombe was to make a personal statement raised peculation to fever pitch at estminster that she was about to resign. But quitting would have been out of character, but few could have hlamed her. The personal abuse heaped on her looks was rare even for the present government. By making a personal state-

ment, admitting a mistake had jerk Thatcherite right-winger.

The trains may have to stop for

rail privatisation. Roger Salmon, the franchising direc-

tor, has realised that he cannot

sell the train operations to the

private sector if any trains are

running on the lines at the

time of the transfer.

As a result, next month's handover of the first three lines.

none of which run all night, will

have to take place early in the

morning. However, future ser-

vices where all-night trains are operating will have to he sold

when one of the late trains

ed by Michael Howard. She gave no hint of the doubts she privately feels about prison policy, in particular, the sacking of Derek Lewis as chief executive of the Prison Service. But her sympathy for Mr Lewis is one of factor which makes her difficult to categorise as a knee-

will have to be cancelled to give

time for the transfer to take

office said the problem was

that if any trains were running

at the precise time at which re-

sponsibility was transferred. "it

will be impossible to allocate

costs between the parties in-

volved". Legal problems would

also arise if there were an accident on the train during the

been consulting rail timetables to find a time when there are no

services. Early on Sunday morn-

Mr Salmon has therefore

time of its transfer.

been made by officials, Ms Widdecombe also avoided being cross-examined on the policy of the Home Office in risons. As the senior minister below the Home Secretary, she cannot afford to show any doubt about the policy adopt-

Mustington

ores as you will be made, there are gran

Written proof: A letter showing hospital concern about chaining and (below) pointing out the minister's error

Whittington

## Letters reveal hospital's concern

HEATHER MILLS

The Whittington Hospital had written to both the Prison Service and 10 ministers about their concerns over the shackling of pregnant prisoners, be-fore Anne Widdecombe claimed in the Commons that there had been no complaint.

Five months ago, Ian Kidson, the hospital's chief executive, raised the issue of handcuffs and chains in a letter to Janet King, the governor of Holloway jail.

He enclosed a letter from the director of midwifery expressing "great concern amongst the staff within the maternity unit regarding the new policy by the Home Office that all patients are handcuffed and chained to wardens.

Hospital staff had even secured a meeting last November with the Prison Service to discuss the issue. It was suggested that a group midwifery, obstetric and gynaecology service be provided within the jail, in order to avoid the practice.

reaches its destination, or a train ing has emerged as the would be reluctant to travel on

Fortunately for Mr Salmon,

the first three lines expected to

go to the private sector next

month - South West Trains,

Great Western and London.

Tilbury & Southend - do not

But with trains running un-

til the early hours of Sunday, the

transfer would have to take

place between lam and 4am.

However, in terms of public re-

lations, that time of the week

would be a flop, as journalists

have all-night services.

ams on a st

favourite, possibly as soon as 4 an early Sunday morning train.

February, because there are even if it was to celebrate

no early morning commuter Britain's first private train ser-

But as there was no change in policy, Baroness Hayman, chairman of the Whittington Hospital Trust, wrote this time to Baroness Cumberledge, the health minister, seeking another meeting. She wrote: "As you may be aware there are grave professional concerns over the effects of the tightening of custody policies towards pregnant women prisoners. As the main hospital providing care for women from Holloway Prison, we are much concerned with the dilemmas current poli-

and custodial staff." It was against this backround, that Miss Widdecombe 1-prepared by a short briefing with prison officials, wrongly told the Commons that the Whittington had not registered a complaint.

cies are posing for both clinical

After yesterday's "unreserved apology" for misinforming MPs spokeswomen for the Whit tington said staff were pleased that Miss Widdecombe had clarified the position.

The new companies also fear

that if some minor local train be-

comes the first to be privatised.

it runs a much greater risk of

hreaking down or being can-

Network SouthCentral, one

celled than a main commuter

service or InterCity service.

of the next four franchises due

to be allocated, runs trains all

night to Gatwick airport. Then

there may be the moment Mr

Salmon dreads, when the trains

have to stop for privatisation.

#### IN BRIEF

Maxwell jurors hit by chest infections

Jurors in the trial of the Maxwell brothers were sent to a hotel for an eighth night after failing to reach verdicts and being struck by illness.

Earlier the judge, Mr Justice Phillips, said that he realised several jurous were suffering from chest infections brought on by the "unhealthy atmosphere" of the jury room. He told them the court would provide them with humidifiers in order to improve the atmosphere and encouraged them to go for walks around Lincoln's Inn Fields. which adjoins the court.

So far the jury has spent 47 hours considering verdicts against Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Tra-chtenberg a former financial adviser to the Maxwell empire. All deny conspiring to defraud the pension funds. Kevin alone denies a similar charge of con-spiring with his father, Robert, to misuse pension fund assets.

Bi

ne

Miners' victory

Thousands of mmers and former pitmen suffering from an industrial disease known as Vihration White Finger will be able to seek compensation after a test case ruling. Lawyers and trade unions anticipate claims against British Coal could total millions of pounds after Judge John Stephenson, sitting at the High Court in Newcastie upon Tyne, said the company should have known of the risks of VWF resulting from power tools used in the industry from January 1973.

#### Action on smoking

Parents who smoke are subjecting their children to a form of abuse with consequences for. their health, development, and future prospects, doctors warned as they stepped up their campaign to persuade the Government to ban tobacco advertising. The warning coincides with the introduction of a 10 Minute Rule Bill in the Commons by the Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes, which provides draft legislation for the banning of tobacco advertising.

#### Wise counsel

Barristers have voted to accept a complaints system which for the first time would allow dissatisfied clients to seek redress for poor work. However, clients will not be able to complain about the barristers' performances in court, only their work preparing for trials.

#### Arms talks continue

The three-man international body on arms de-commissioning in Northern Ireland, led by George Mitchell, held another round of talks in Belfast and Dublin amid indications that its report may not be ready until Friday or even next week.

#### Baby bliss -

Carmen Daniels, whose son Rhys and daughter Charly were born with Batten's disease, has given birth to another daughter, named Bliss, who is free from the incurable genetic illness.

#### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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## Royal Mail chief in strike warning

Rail sell-off may be in the dark

BARRIE CLEMENT

Leaders of 160,000 postal workers were warned yesterday that a threatened nationwide strike would be "absolutely daft."

The comments by John Roberts, new Royal Mail chief executive, come 48 hours ahead of a deadline issued by the Communication Workers' Union. Senior officials of the union are calling for a strike balint unless management offers assurances tomorrow about the future of services.

Concern over the continuing

existence of the second postal delivery and the increasing introduction of casual staff are behind a series of wildcat walkouts which last year accounted for one in three of days lost in British industry through indus-

trial action. Mr Roberts said he was confident rather than certain a dispute would be avoided. "A national strike would be daft for employees who would lose money and incredibly daft for cus-tomers who would think they were back in the bad old days.

He said there was no ques-

tion of abolishing the second de-livery, but indicated there could be a gradual and limited shift towards the employment of temporary and limited contract staff. Around 1,500 to 2,000 jobs are scheduled to go each year, largely through mechanisation, and around 1,500 casual em-

ployees would be taken on. He said, however, that "casualisation" of employment formed no part of the plan and that the proportion of full-timers to part-timers would remain at around 80-20 for the foreseeable future. He con-

ceded that management had so far failed to reassure employee about their job security and said industrial relations would form a major part of his brief. In a "state of the Royal Mail

address", Mr Roberts said the Prime Minister's statement that privatisation of the Post Office might be in the Tory election manifesto, would not affect the way the business was run. Any sell-off was a matter for the Government, but it was im-portant for any organisation to know exactly what was required by its higgest shareholder.

## was of great importance to the the foundation's trading arm, The case continues today. "I watched as the bomb flipped the lorry over like a beer mat and wreckage poured over our jeep. We didn't drive off ia case we ran over a landmine...

## THE HIT THAT STILL HAUNTS ANDY KERSHAW

Andy Kershaw, taking time off from Radio I to report from Rwanda. Our journalists and commentators scour the world for momentous, interesting and off-beat stories. 'From Our Own Correspondent', 11.30 Saturday and Thursday mornings,

> BBB RADIO / 92-95 FM 198 LW



## Newbury business chiefs to back protesters

NICHOLAS SCHOON

A group of leading Newbury husinessmen will today declare their opposition to the town's controversial western bypass at a press conference organised with Friends of the Earth.

As contractors clearing the route of the bypass again failed to make significant progress yes-terday, the executives said their MP, David Rendel, a Liberal Democrat, is misleading the public when he says that local ings and a questionnaire have

shire overwhelmingly favour the controversial road.

They say the bypass will do little to ease congestion caused by dense local traffic, and may

oven make it worse in places.
One of them, an executive head hunter, Adrian Foster-Fletcher, spent three days with road protesters as they clashed with security guards last week. A local managing director, Paul Carter, said several meet-

shown many in the business community are unhappy about the nine-mile road leading through beautiful countryside and nature sites. He runs a com-

puter company that employs 70. Keith Berry, the managing director of another Newbury computer company, LanBase, which employs 50, said: "This new road is too high a price to pay. The countryside we've got here is special and needs looking after."

Clive Oshorne, chairman of

a group of electronies compa-nies employing 200 in the town, said: "Common sense tells me that we can't go on like this."

The businessmen agree that the town needs relief from heavy traffic. A stream of juggernauts passes through on the A34 hetween the south coast ports and the Midlands, using a dual-carriageway bypass that was built in the Sixties.

Instead of a new road through open countryside, they should it become like Slough? favour improvements to the

existing one. Fly-overs or underpasses ought to be built at the five roundabouts which slow the traffic flow, and possihly a toll tunnel ought to be dug under the River Kennet, to replace the bridge.

They believe the new bypass will bring more housing, shopping and industrial sprawl to a town that has grown dra-matically in the last 25 years, losing much of its character. "Why said Mr Foster-Fletcher

Just over a year ago, 50 ex-ecutives heard Mr Rendel address a meeting of the Newbury Business Breakfast Club on the need for the western bypass, and voted unanimously against it. The club represents a crosssection of manufacturing and

service industries in the town. Late last year, three cluh members sent 500 copies of a questionnaire to local firms asking: "If a better route could be found, would you like it examined?" They received 140

responses, a high rate for a ques-tionnaire, of which 110 were in

Mr Rendel says most tocal hosses back the bypass. The lo-cal hranch of the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and the town's biggest commercial employer, Racal Vodafone, support it. "It was a question that was so hiased and so pointed that I'm not surprised they got that response," Mr Rendel said. "Polling suggests between

one in six and one in eight New-

bury people are against the new bypass, and I think the feeling will be the same among local business people."

No progress was made on the road yesterday because of the demonstrators' protests. A chainsaw gang was forced to stop clearing trees at the southem end of the route after less than 30 minutes. There were 20 arrests, mostly for trespass. During the past week fewer than 400 of about 10,000 trees on the route have been felled.

## **Biometrics:** identifying a new science

**CHARLES ARTHUR** Science Correspondent

Computers that recognise our signatures, voices, fingerprints or hand-shape could soon replace humans to check credit cards, immigration permits and benefit payments, say experts in the field of hiometrics.

The Department of Employment is at present studying the results of the higgest trial of its kind in the world, where people at unemployment benefit offices in Liverpool and Tyneside had to sign on an electronic "tablet" to verify their identity. This was then checked against earlier signatures.

In 15 months, the system checked 200,000 signatures



Emma Newham: Biometrics common by 'end of decade'

from 20,000 people, and wrongly rejected just 0.1 per cent of applicants. Though a good forger can copy the shape of a signature, even the best cannot copy the acceleration and pressure of the original signatory.

Now the department may roll the system out to hundreds of offices across Britain. "It seems to have worked well in Liverpool, said Andrew Lewcock, head of the neural computing unit at AEA Technology, which developed the signature verification system. "Now they are looking at whether it's cost-effective. Such systems typically cost about £200 per unit, with each office needing about six. The department had no comment on when it might widen the use of the system.

The finance company Visa International will also be using the new technology. Next year Visa plans to introduce a new generation of "smart" credit cards with an on-board micro-

chip which can store an encoded signature, voice or fingerprint, making automatic verification possible. A Visa spokesman, Andrew Bapti, said that Visa had yet to decide which biometric to use.

Biometrie systems can be programmed to identify any unique physical characteristic. Among those already in use are recognition systems for voice, signature, and the pattern of blood vessels in the retina at the back of the eye.

Emma Newham, editor of Biometric Technology Today magazine, said: "Everybody has been saying for the past 10 years that biometric systems would be in wide use in the next two years. It hasn't happened so far because the computing power hasn't been there. But once you have smart cards in widespread use, they will become commonplace. That should mean by the end of the decade."

Most biometric systems rely on powerful computers with neural networks" - software that can pick out an essential pattern from a jumble of data. Mr Lewcock said, "It's only become possible in the past five years to huy computers that are powerful enough to do this work for a reasonable price. In 1990 such power might have been just a dream. [but] today I can have a PC with more than

enough power on my desk." A British company announced earlier this week that it is developing a system which can distinguish people by smell. However, that will tend to be expensive - and so only useful to organisations requiring high

The US Immigration and Naturalisation Service has for some years been using a system which measures the ratios of finger lengths and handspan, for people who have previously been granted entry into the US without a visa.

The applicant puts their hand into a box, where a light system measures the ratio of finger lengths to the handspan. This is then recorded on the magnetic strip of a plastic card.

The amount of data needed is so small - just nine bytes - that it could he included in the machine-readable section of the new EU passport.



Catwalk kilt: Fashion Vivienne Westwood-style at Milan

Photographs: Chris Moore



## Westwood lets her men rock again

TAMSIN BLANCHARD

Vivienne Westwood showed vesterday that men can have all the fun that women have when

it comes to dressing up. The designer, who is queen of the womenswear catwalks in Paris, showed her menswear in Milan for the first time with a collection of 95 outfits that ranged from Sherlock Holmes suits to black patent leather zipfront mechanic's overalls, and from priest-like cassocks, and vihrant kilts complete with match-

ing shirt, tie, jacket and socks.

Oversized Prince of Wales check jackets were worn with matching Oxford bag trousers and delicate lacy handkerchiefs flopped out of suit pockets.

A stuffed hird of prev perched precariously on top of a turban and Highland hlankets were tossed proudly over shoulders. And for the really daring there were solid diamante and sequinned corset-structured torso jackets with in-built muscles. At last, here was a collection for men to marvel at.

Westwood has been making menswear since 1970. When she and Malcolm McLaren set up their first shop, Let It Rock, the

small collection of men's teddy boy suits. Her ideas shocked then as they still do.

Westwood's gentleman customers were spared the padded bum cases used for women. But they were allowed to wear all the accessories such as gold earrings and high-heels. And while most designers have a definite dividing line between clothes for men and women, Westwood simply took her women's clothing, much of which is based on Savile Row tailoring, and re-cut tt for men. I he result was a disconcerting synthesis of masculine and feminine, historical costume and modern suiting.

Now is the time for Westwood. Milan is full of men dressed in Le Style Anglais -Burberry checks are everywhere. Her collection for next autumn/winter will be a huge hit with the European and Japanese markets.

Westwood's turnover is around £15m and it is hoped that the expansion of her menswear collection will generate another £3m. Tom Logan. buyer for the London store Liberty, is looking forward to selling the collection. "It is wonderful, wearable, tailored clothmg - fantastic English dressing."

### Learner drivers in rush to beat new test

JOJO MOYES

The Driving Standards Agency is struggling to cope as thousands of learner drivers ruch to take their driving test before the introduction of a written section

Applications have increased hy 30,000 to 245,000 since this time last year, while problems have increased because of the closure of six of the agency's 11

driving test booking centres and "teething problems" with its telephone hooking system.

The increasing waiting tists and last-minute cancellations of the £28.50 test have meant that some learner drivers are threat-

ening to sue the agency.
"The driving test is one of the most nerve-racking times of your life and the new theory test is making it more so," Martin Arnold, head of public affairs at the British School of Motoring, Britain's largest driving school, said. "A number of learner drivers are getting very frustrated with the DSA. They're turning up for tests and finding they've been cancelled. A number have threatened to

Mr Arnold said the agency was meant to be offering driving tests within six weeks, but there was now a three- to four-month wait in some places. "Last year the agency closed 6 of the 11 driving test booking centres. It also introduced a telephone booking system for tests with which incv ve had a num tecthing problems."

The DSA lost its charter mark last year because it could not fulfil its aim of providing a test within six weeks. The problem was exacerbated by a reduction in full-time examiners, which has forced the agency to train 160 part-time replacements. BSM is compiling a national review of the driving test waiting time and will announce the results next month.

A spokeswoman for the DSA said the national average was now seven weeks, caused by a growing number of people applying for licences. She added: "Less than I per cent of lests are cancelled at short nolice and that's when examiners have gone sick and we're unable to contact the candidate."

She said that of the 350 test centres nationwide, 14 had waiting times longer than 10 weeks. The new two-part driving test is due to be introduced on I July. The written section, contracted out to a company called Drive-Safe for £70m, is expected to cost the applicant £t3-£15 and will have to be taken before the driving test.

There will be 130 theory test centres compared to the 350 driving test centres, a differential that is already causing controversy. Learner drivers on the Isle of Wight, for example, are being told they will have to make a five-mile ferry crossing to Portsmouth for their test.

## Queen Mother looks for her Jeeves in Reading dole queue

#### REBECCA FOWLER

It is a vacancy Jeeves might dream of, but the Queen Mother has chosen a Reading newspaper to advertise for an under butler, because she is anxious to give unemployed men outside London a joh opportunity.

The discreet advertisement was placed in the Reading Evening Post last Thursday, at the cost of £2.75 a line. It said

simply: "Under Butler required for Royal Household in London. Please apply to the Comptroller, Clarence House."

A spokeswoman for the Queen Mother, whose head hutler has served her for 46 years, confirmed her enthusiasm for widening the net.

That is a policy and has been since unemployment was really bad," the spokeswoman said. For the small but flourishing world of butlers, it is a unique

chance to take one of the most prestigious jobs in the field.

Although the Royal Family often pay less than the average £25,000 salary, and are more traditional than most employees. they also offer the best perks. According to Ivor Spencer, who runs an international butler school and has provided staff for the Duke and Duchess of York. King Hossein of Jordan and Rupert Murdoch, the joh will involve serving food, cleaning Palace.

silver, opening the door and answering the telephone.

"It's a lovely job. The wages wouldn't be as much as outside, hut you wouldn't work as hard. and the perks are marvellous. There's a swimming pool, a football club, and you live in this magnificent place." Mr Spencer The Queen Mother's policy

of advertising outside London is shared by Buckingham

Two young men from Toxteth, the jobs," Mr Spencer said. from Clarence House, he can iverpool, who were given The single greatest require-expect an enthusiastic reception cholarships to attend the ment of a royal butler is dis-Liverpool, who were given scholarships to attend the Spencer course, which costs £3,150, were taken on by Prince Edward and Prince Andrew

when they finished. When they went to see the manager who was responsible for the positions, he said: 'Don't mess me around' because be didn't realise they were trained.

"But they provided him with their diplomas and were given

cretion, and the successful applicant will sign a confidentiality document.

Graduates from the International Butler's School did not even wish to discuss their applications.

Most royal servants either leave within three years, or remain for life, but if the successful applicant does move on

in the United States. The joh would also be very different. Clarence House would not reveal the number of applicants it has received since Thursday.

Reading Joh Centre said it did not have any butlers on its books, but it is understood that the advertisement has been taken up enthusiastically.



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outside and play football with a live which will do just that. hedgehog, disembowel a fox or beat a rabbit.

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THE PEUGEOT 106. LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND.

Clare Garner interviewed six pupils at Acland Burghley School, a mixed comprehensive in north London



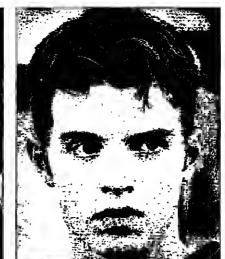
KATE JONES, 14, from Archway: "Our school has a code of conduct. It's a list not of rules but of general understandings. The discipline is still there, but there is a looser understanding between the teachers and children. It's about respect, co-operation and self-control. I don't think it is wrong to have nuderage sex. It's like with drugs, it's a personal decision. It doesn't make any difference whether you are 14 or 17, it's more a question of whether you are ready."



TOM ELLIS, 15, from Tufnell Park: "Our morals are based on having people of dif-ferent cotours and religions in our community. I don't even know the Ten Commandments. My parents are quite liberal and let me he independent. They have never said 'No' to anything really and if they did t'd prohably go and do it because they would be stopping me."



ELLEN VELLACOTT, 16, from Highhury: "Lying is ridiculous. Stealing is not justified. And violence doesn't solve anything. If anything, it creates more violence and lies. Under-age sex isn't wrong. It's a matter of whether you are ready for it. Marriage is now too casual a thing. I'll make a commitment, but I personally won't get



SIMON REES, 18, from Tufnell Park: "I was both a victim of bullying and a bully "I think smoking is wrong. But if people myself, I was bullied [and] I went and bulling just say 'Don't do it' then it's not going to was both a victim of bullying and a bully tied other people. As a result, I was want to make us do it any less. I'm not rebrought up short by my form teacher. It ally sure about the lottery . . . It's just takwas really through that I learned the
effects of bullying and how damaging it can
be.I think it is unacceptable to remove anybody else's self-esteem or right to feel safe."

any safe about the kitty in it is
ing money from the poor and giving it to
the rich. It's just selfish. I think a lot
more people would do the lottery if it went
to Children in Need or the homeless."



DOROTHY LEYS, 12, from Kentish Town:



SHAUN NORTON, 14, from Tufnell Park: "I was racist at one time to a few people hut through my mum I understood it was wrong. She had another son and he's halfcaste. His dad explained to me and tanght me about colour. I used to think: 'Ah, right, I'm going to fight you and I'm going to fight you. But now if trouble comes my way I try and talk my way out of it. You might take a swing at them and think you are right. but actually you are wrong.

Teachers deny blame for moral decay and put focus on public sleaze. Fran Abrams reports

Teachers reacted angrily tast niculum could squeeze out pernight to a claim by the Government's chief curriculum adviser that they spent too little time teaching children traditional moral values and too much boosting their self-esteem,

They said they were already teaching right and wrong and blamed the national curriculum and public sleaze for stunting children's spiritual development.

Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA), had told a conference in London that trainee teachers were so worried about being accused of racism or sexism they were unwilling to teach any values.

Dr Tate said the death of Philip Lawrence, the head teacher stabbed to death last month as he tried to protect a pupil, highlighted the need for society to support schools in teaching moral values. The positive message transmitted through team games was marred by parents who stood on the touchline and shouted abuse at the referee, he added.

One teachers' union leader accused Dr Tate of siding with the radical religious right. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers, said schools spent so much time teaching morals they were sometimes accused of neglecting the "Three

Rs" as a result. These moral and religious fanatics forget that morality is caught, not taught. How can schools counteract the devastating examples set by so many of the rich and famous? In reality, they are often oases of morality in a desert of couldn't

care less about corruption." Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said teachers had warned the Government eight years ago that the national cur-

sonal and social education. The Government must get the sleaze out of public life, he

"The role modet for young people these days is likely to be a football manager involved in shaky deals or an MP failing to declare an interest," he said,

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman. said his visits to schools had convinced him that children knew the difference between right and wrong. But they had difficulty in reconciling that with what they saw around them.

"How can it be morally acceptable that so many young people are without jobs and sleeping on the street? The Government must set a far better example itself if it wishes to see improvements in moral standards," he said.

Roy Chapman, the headmaster of Malvern College who created controversy in 1994 when he criticised moral standards in public life, warned that parents bore a greater responsibility than schools for a child's conduct.

"For too many children money and material goods are provided as a substitute for love and interest. The deep-frozen meal eaten in front of the television is no substitute for a family meal when the problems of the world can be taken apart." he said.

Fr Kieran Conry, spokesman for the Roman Catholic church. welcomed Dr Tate's speech. "More and more schools need to support parents if they don't have a moral framework to work within." he said.

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of SCAA, also supported Dr Tate's view: "The gradual erosion of the Christian religion, the decline of Sunday school as part of a child's Sunday and the values they stood for have ... loosened the code that our society is based upon," he said.

# AIR FRANCE A WEEKEND IN PARIS

Police examine sex murder link

WILL BENNETT

A woman who was sexually assaulted and strangled before her body was left by a moorland road in Lancashire was yesterday identified as Angela Heys. 33, from nearby Bolton.

Lancushire police are liaising with other forces to see whether the death of Miss Heys has similarities to other murders, such as that of Celine Figard, whose naked hody was found in a layby near Worcester earlier this month after she had been strangled and sexually assaulted.

However, detectives do not believe that Miss Heys was the victim of a serial killer.

A cyclist discovered the body

of Miss Heys, who was wearing only a hra and pants, behind a wall off the A666 at Egerton, near Bolton on Sunday moming. Police believe that she had been there for several days.





Miss Heys, the mother of a 15-year-old girl, lived in a bedit in a terraced house in Bolton. She had a drink problem, was taking tablets to counteract depression and last year attempted to commit suicide by slashing her wrists after a row with her boyfriend.

Íohn Harrison, a neighbour. said: "She was out of work and very depressed. She couldn't work because she had a bad leg from a car accident years ago. As well as pursuing a link to the Celine Figard murder, Lancashire police are liaising with Greater Manchester police who are investigating the murders of Louise Sellars, a schoolgir! from Wigan, and Maria Requeña, a Manchester prostitute. They are also contacting Merseyside officers looking for the murderer of Julie Finley, 23. whose naked body was found at Rainford, near Skelmersdale. FROM £99 PER PERSON

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FOR TWO

Ex-minister issues challenge in Finance Bill debate

## Hunt rallies defence of One Nation ideal

A passionate defence of One Nation Toryism was mounted in the Commons yesterday by the former Cahinet minister David Hunt.

Budget, though it was a description that did not seem to have occurred to William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary, who opened the debate.

In a clear response to Baroness Thatcher's right-wing rallying call of last week, Mr Hunt urged the party not to be side-tracked by "siren voices" but to remain true to One Nation policies.

The former Secretary of State for Wales emphasised the need to ensure that unemptoyment did not undermine the social fahric of Britain and urged Tory colleagues to be more positive about the European

Making his speech during the Second Reading debate on the Finance Bill, Mr Hunt drew particular attention to the One Nation teanings of Chancellor Kenneth Clarke who was tistening on the front hench.

Congratulating Mr Clarke on a "One Nation Budget", he said: "I recall on a previous occasion the Chancellor said that one of his clear objectives was to ensure we don't have developing within the United Kingdom the sort of underclass that we have seen in the United

The Budget, and the Finance Bilt which implements it, did much to ensure that would not liappen, Mr Hunt said. Another Tory backbencher, Tim Yeo. also praised the "One Nation

Mr Hunt recalled the seminal One Nation pamphlet published in the 1950s by a group including Edward Heath, Iain Macleod, Enoch Powell and Angus Maude and quoted Dis-raeli's ahhorrence of two na-

Inside Parliament. Stephen

Goodwin

tions - "rich and poor" - in ignorance of each other. "That has been very much the theme running through my strong be-lief in Conservatism and Christian democracy. One Nation Toryism isn't the possession of the left, the centre or the right. It is fundamental to onservatism.

Mr Hunt said that, coming from Wirral on Merseyside, he cared very much about unemployment. The area had had a very high tevel of unemploy-ment for far too long. "That has done a great deal to undermine the social fabric of society. It is the Tory approach to these problems which provides the

"The Chancellor has clearly defined the social mind. Of course we must allow the market to produce the wealth, hut so that we can then afford the social policies that enable us fundamentally to ensure that we are one nation.

Mr Hunt said the centre ground was the territory where the Tories had won successive etections under Lady Thatcher and John Major.

We must never surrender our election-winning strategy. Siren voices from the extreme left, and indeed from the right. may urge us to side track, to move away from One Nation policies, but we must remain true to our tong-standing

Mr Yeo, a former housing minister, said Mr Hunt had given "an excellent and clear and very timely reminder" of the true nature of One Nation

That strand of the party, Mr Yeo said, "quite wrongly is now being characterised as some kind of excessively pro-European, excessively left-wing body of philosophy. It has noth-ing whatever to do with that." Lady Thatcher, reasserting

her right-wing, Euro-sceptic creed last Thursday, dismissed those she once branded wets as Euro-federalists who wanted "oo-natioo Conservatism".



Political overture: David Cielland, Labour MP for Newcastle Tyne Bridge and a keen guitarist, was one of the first musicians yesterday to take advantage of Tyneside Metro's newly-licensed busking Photograph: Will Walker

## Lib Dems in drive to spread the word

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, will next month embark on a round-Britain tour in a bid to raise his to the next election. writes Patricia Wynn Davies.

The visits to 12 Liberal Democrat target areas, including the West Country, Liverpool, Sheffield, Tyneside and Edinburgh, follow private polling in

the regions showing govern-ment popularity at rock bottom. But the research also showed that while people felt betrayed party's profile in the run-up and let down, they also felt nervous about change.

Mr Ashdown will use the inaugural Liheral Democrat News lecture next Monday to issue a rallying call for pluralism, arguing that the Opposition has a responsibility not only to

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bring about the defeat of a discredited government, but to build "consensus" about the nature of the alternative and ensure it is long lasting.

It will be the second time Mr Ashdown has taken his cause away from Westminster to the country. But this year's series of meetings and discussions, under the rubric "Britain's people; is planned for Friday, follow Britain's future" and planned to by a meeting with parents.

run until the autumn, are intended to be far more in-depth than the 1993 tour resulting in the book Beyond Westminster.

The Labour leader, Tony Blair, is conducting a similar exercise. The party hopes to attract 1,200 people to a meeting in Derty on Thursday. A husiness hreakfast in the east Midlands is planned for Friday, followed

## **Threat** to Major could be blocked by MPs

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Rule changes which could make it impossible for John Major to be challenged again as Tory leader are to be examined by leading backbenchers. But there are sharp differences withou the party over whether such changes are desirable.

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 committee, confirmed yesterday it was planning to re-examine the rules. A small sub-committee of senior officers of the committee is expected to be set up shortly to examine the procedures for electing party

eaders. But as Sir Marcus warned in a BBC Radio interview yesterday that the committee would not reach a hasty decision, it became clear that, while the committee executive is divided over whether, a further change in the rules is desirable.

Delinque

At least one member of the executive is expected to argue that the present system, under which a leader can be challenged from within his own party whether or not he is n etected Prime Minister, should be radically reformed But other members of the committee, particularly on the party's right wing are highly sceptical of the desirability of a rule change which they believe could simply be a manoeuvre to eliminate any possibility of an 11th-hour challenge to Mr Major before

the general election. Sir Marcus acknowledged that a further challenge in 1996 was theoretically possible, but said he was sure one would not take place because it would be "ludicrous" for the party to split in the run-up to a general election. He said: "There is a case about whether it is right that wheo we are in government, we should have a challenge every year to the Prime Minister when he is in office.

"The feeling is among some that it's quite different when you are in opposition. But in government, it's confusing, to put it mildly, and debilitating [to

have a leadership contest]. Sir Marcus has been briefed by his predecessor Sir Cranley Onslow on the issues examined by the 1922 Committee executive when it changed the rules for leadership contests after the fall of Lady Thatcher in November 1990. At present, 10 percent of the parliamentary party have to notify the 1922 chair-

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man that they want a contest. The insistence of Sir Marcus and at least one senior colleague that the examination would not be hurried, makes it possible the rules could remain intact until after the election.

## Scotland hosts question time

JOHN ARLIDGE Scotland Correspondent

Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, vesterday unveiled his vision of "limited. sensible" devolution in the heart of Labour's proposed Scottish parliament.

Mr Forsyth chose New Parliament House, in Edinhurgh, the building Tony Blair has earmarked for a Scottish assembly. as the veoue for the first-ever Scottish Ouestion Time to be held outside Westminster. In the opposition questions at a meeting of the Commons Grand Committee of Scottish MPs.

The move is part of Mr Forsyth's policy of increasing the powers of the committee. Two months ago he gave its members the right to conduct the second and third readings of uncontentious Bills and to summon senior ministers to face questions on government policy. Mr Forsyth hopes the beefed-

up committee, plus the receot transfer of powers from the Scottish Office to Scotland's 29 oew unitary local authorities, will blunt Labour's arguments for a tax-raising Edinhurgh assembly. John Major and Kenneth Clarke will appear before the committee this spring.

The public gallery yesterday heard Mr Forsyth fend off Labour and nationalist claims that he had turned a hlind eye to the problems caused by the Christmas blizzards. He agreed with Labour members that "idiotic" attempts by the Tory hackbencher John Butterfill to introduce Central European Time in the UK should be defeated. And he announced his intention to launch a "crusade" against drug abuse.

While the Tory, SNP and Liberal Democrat benches were full, less than half Scotland's 49 Labour MPs attended the session, in a chamber where many will be expected to sit if Labour wins the next general election.

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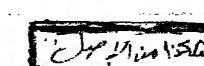
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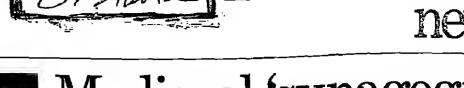
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Digging up the past: Excavation work being carried out on a suspected 700-year-old synagogue in Guildford

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

## Medieval 'synagogue' found in Surrey shop

DAVID KEYS

Archaeology Correspondent

Archaeologists have discovered what they believe is Britain's only surviving medieval syna-gogue - hidden underneath a shop in Guildford. Surrey. In north-west Europe it would only be the third syna-

gogue known to have survived from medieval times, and had lain forgotten and buried for more than 700 years.

The site consisting of just one small yet heautifully decorated room, was a semi-private though purpose-built place of worship within a merchant's house. It was constructed in around 1180 and is believed to have been closed down in 1275 when Edward I's mother, Queen Eleanor, expelled the Jews from several English towns, including Guildford.

If the archaeologists are right, then - outside the Holy Land - it is one of the oldest synagogues ever found,

chitectural evidence points on balance lowards Jewish religious use," says Britain's leading authority on medieval English synagogue history. Joe Hillaby, of Bristol University.

The elaborate architecture of the room strongly suggests a religious use, but its design and location make a Christian

designation unlikely," he said.
"The only other religion in
medieval England was Judaism
and the design of the newly discovered Guildford site is reminiscent of some other known medieval synagogues," he said. Particularly significant is the stone bench around the

room, only interrupted by two entrances and four columns. The evidence for activity in

the room is concentrated in the middle of its eastern side - the place where the Ark containing the Torah Scrolls (the first five books of the bible) would have been kept. A silver coin was

"The chronological and ar- marks, probably caused by the naked flame of an od lamp. According to Jewish tradition a lamp would have burnt per-petually in front of the Ark.

The date of the room - circa 1180 - also supports the synagogue idea. The Anglo-Jewish community was then at its most prosperous - and, according to the pottery and coin evidence, the room went out of use in or around the 1270s when the Jews were expelled.

The site was discovered by three archaeologists, John Book Mary Alexander and Kevin Fryer, of Guildford Museum archaeological unit, while investigating a shop busement. "We cleared a mass of rubble and soon found ourselves inside a room that nobody had seen for

700 years," said Mr Boas. In 1278-79 almost all England's 3.000t Jews were arrested on trumped up charges of clipping silver off coins. Around 500 were hanged and found there along with scorch the others expelled in 1290.

Delinquency: 'Risk-takers' defy get-tough Government policy

## Juvenile crime 'not linked to drug abuse'

JASON BENNETTO

The Government's policy of "getting tough" on drugs to reduce crime among young peo-ple will have little impact, according to a study published vesterday that found no direct evidence linking the two. The survey of 768 girls and

boys aged 13, 14, and 15 in Leteester also found that 40 per cent of youngsters have taken not as high as found in surveys arugs, while most drink and in the north, but higher than the -maka. Crime among young national average. people was also high, with onethird admitting to shoplifting. one-fifth to both vandalism and handling stolen goods, and 15 per cent to assault. The levals of offences were much highor among single-parent and working-class families,

However, the most surprising finding was that there is little or no evidence to directly link drug use and crime. Instead the report Drugs and Crime - A Study Amongst Young People In Leicener argues that teenagers who are involved in both do so because it is part of their "risktaking lifestyle". Most youngsters started crime before taking to drugs and there was little evidence to show that anyone stole to feed their drug habit.

The findings challenge both policies of clamping down on drug use among young people in order to reduce crime. The report suggests it would be more worthwhile looking at the social and cultural conditions of the offenders and

improving drug education. Nevertheless, the report by University, and Julie Trickey, of the Centre For the Study of Public Order, at Leicester Uni- crime were seen as independent versity, gives a depressing story of abuse among teenagers. It was found that one in eight 13-year-olds had taken drugs, 15 per cent of 14-yearolds and nearly 40 per cent of 15-year-olds. The most com-

monly tried and used illicit drug was cannabis (30 per cent), followed by LSD (12 per cent). amyl nitrate (10 per cent), amphetamines and lighter fuel (9 per cent), and solvents (7 per cent). Only a handful had tried heroin, crack or cocaine. Surprisingly, only 2 per cent had taken the dance drug cestasy. About 15 per cent of the sample were classified as regular users. However, the figures are

Overall, boys took more drugs than girls.

Both eigarettes and alcohol were popular, with just over a quarter of the group drinking at least once a week and one in five smoking dady. Three-quarters of boys said they drank compared with 60 per cent of girls.

Asian youngsters took the least amount of drugs, with blacks the highest and whites in the middle. This pattern was also true about crime. Household structure was also found to be a good measure of drug use and offending. Teenagers living with two parents fared better than those with a single female parent or with a mother and steplather/boyfriend.

On links between crime and drugs, the report says "the presthe Conservative and Labour sures to engage in predatory crime in order to purchase

drugs is relatively low It stated that among the regular drug users - who were also the biggest criminals - the majority spent less than £10 per week on illegal substances. This mostly came from pocket money or part-time jobs. Only six Roger Matthews, of Middlesex teenagers said they committed erimes to get the cash.

Involvement in drug use and and "that a 'getting tough' on drug use as a strategy to reduce crime amongst young people will have little impact Drugs and Crime. Centre for the Study of Public Order.

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As the mentally ill are diverted from prison to hospital, long-stay beds continue to close, and the health service finds its wards 'caught in a vice', London psychiatric hospitals struggle with six patients for every five vacancies

## Psychiatric beds under siege from all sides

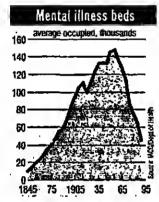
NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

In a small office in the Gordon psychlatric hospital, in central London, sits Alistair Robinson, 31, a registered mental nurse and, since last May, the hospital's bed manager.

It is almost impossible to

talk to him. In the space of 20 minutes his bleep goes off seven times, the phone rings five times and he makes six calls out. He is trying to find beds for psy-chiatric patients who need hospital admission. What is it like? "Horrendous," he grins, sitting beneath a cartoon of an NHS psychiatrist addressing a plant in a flowerbed and telling it: "We need your bed."

On his desk is a directory of NHS and private psychiatric hospitals from the south coast to Glasgow, including 37 secure units where patients who are an active danger to others can be housed. He spent the morning trying to find such a bed for a man the police had arrested but whom his unit's court diversion team had decided was mental-



ly ill and should be cared for in hospital, not prison. "I phoned about 25 of them. Today I didn't quite get to there" - he jabs his finger at the line which says Rainhill Hospital, Preston.

He failed. By 2pm he had been unable to find an empty secure bed anywhere from London and the south coast up to Norwich and Cambridge. Time had run out. "At two o'clock he was up before the judge who re-manded him to Brixton for a month. That means we've got a month to find him a bed, or we're up before the beak."

Mr Robinson is also trying to find general psychiatric beds for four patients whom the unit's community psychiatric team say need admission.

The Gordon itself is full -running in fact at 105 per cent occupancy, which means that where a patient is out on leave, another is filling the bed; not good if the trial visit to the outside world breaks down and the patient needs to come back. The Gordon's sister units too are full - "They've been ringing me to ask for beds". In the end, beds are found, one in a private clinic for which the NHS will pay; another where the parents can afford the £3,000 deposit needed for their son to receive rivate treatment. "That's rare.

But it does happen.' Not every day is like this one. But the Gordon is far from unique. Repeated surveys of all 12 of London's mental illness services over the past 18 months by the Royal College of Psychiatrists show bed occupancy running at 120 per cent. Particularly for secure accommo-dation, patients have to he East Anglia and Cheshire, as



Cold comfort: A patient waits in a corridor at the oversubscribed Gordon Psychiatric Hospital, central London

well as all the main connurba-

tions," it says.
The acute, short-term ad-

mission wards are caught in a

vice, according to mental health

prison to hospital have in-

creased the load at the same

time as the old long-stay beds

have continued to close," said

Chris Heginbotham, a former

national director of Mind who

is the chief executive for the ser-

vice which covers the Gordon.

"At the same time unemploy-

ment and homelessness have in-

creased pressure from the other

end". The result is a service, in

the Mental Health Act

Commission's words, often

"stretched beyond capacity".

"Entirely admirable schemes to divert the mentally ill from

managers and doctors.

shipped out to private hospitals

in Northampton, Yorkshire and Wales - 200 miles away in some

cases - a process that can only

disrupt care for people who are already seriously disturbed. In

the week before the last survey

in July there were 93 assaults on

patients or staff, a further 29

which produced minor injury,

and two which involved frac-

tures, large lacerations or other

According to the Mental Health Act Commission, the

statutory watchdog for patients

compulsorily detained under

the Act, this situation is no

longer confined to the big cities.

"Occupancy levels of 100 per

cent and above have been re-

serious injury.

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GLASGOW

## The simple facts on 'split brain' disorder

What is schizophrenia?

It is a general term for

Liz Hunt answers some of the questions most frequently asked about schizophrenia

a group of psychotic illnesses - the most common form of psychotic disorder - characterised by disturbed thinking, emotional reactions, and behaviours. The word means "split hrain" to describe how the sufferer's thoughts and feelings may not relate to each other in a logical fashion. Often the disorder is described as having a "split personality" but this has led to it being confused Although schizophrenia with multiple personality dis-order, a quite distinct condition.

What is the cause? Is there a genetic compo-

What is happening in the brain of a schizophrenic is not fully understood. However, the drugs which are beneficial in controlling symp-toms work on certain chemical messengers. These chemicals, such as dopamine and serotonin, enable brain cells to communicate with each other. Scientists conclude that an imbalance of neurotransmitters is probably the root cause, There is a strong genetic factor but it cannot explain all cases. Firstdegree relatives of schizophrenics (parents, children or siblings) have a 10 per cent chance of developing the illness. The identical twin of a schizophrenic has a one in two chance of developing schizophrenia.

ls schizophrenia a disease of the 20th century or has it always existed? Is the incidence

has been studied prop-erly only in the last 100 years, the symptoms are described in the earliest medical tracts. Its prevalence is remarkedly consistent throughout the world, at 1 in 100 of the population. However, it is possibly more common in some geographical areas than others and certainly in inner cities, where poor living standards, lack of access to medical care, and other deprivation, may act as a trigger. A disproportionate number of people of Afro-Caribbean extraction in Britain suffer from schizophrenia. There are an estimated 250,000 people diagnosed with schizophrenia in the United Kingdom. The age of onset is between 15

Can people grow out of

A proportion of sufferers, possibly up to 30 per Acent, suffer one acute episode and then get better. Another, smaller group may have three or four episodes and then recover. Often these episodes are linked to drug taking and some researchers insist that this group does not have schizophrenia at all just symptoms similar to it triggered by certain drugs. But essentially, schizophrenia is a disabling and prolonged illness.

Is there a core? What can doctors do?

There is no cure. About 10 per cent of sufferers are severely impaired for life by the disorder. Up to 30 per cent will resume normal lives while the majority have varying degrees of independence during the course of their illness. Doctors rely on anti-psychotic drugs which reduce the symptoms and receptive to psychotherapy.

## Worried parents' pleas for help ignored

NICHOLAS TIMMINS

"He is worned about his son Simon. He fears his son may suffer the same fate as Martin Mursell. I am frightened for

myself, he says."
Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of Sane, is reading from the iog of calls to the schozophrenia charity's helpline in the week af-ter Martin Mursell, a paramoid schizophrenic, was sentenced for stabbing his stephather 18 times in the back, eye, face and genitals before turning on his mother and almost killing her

He hears voices. About half the time he is fine, but at others he is violent. He comes round for a meal every day but becomes abusive and invester-ing, telling his father to get out of the house because it is his." It was after a meal with his parents that Mursell turned on them, because, he later sold po-lice, he was overcome by "a strange fear" and believed they

were looking at him oddly. Simon is 31, a schizophrenic who became ill 18 months after his mother died when he was 16. He was discharged from hospital two years ago to a sup-ported group home, but left after a year. He won't talk to his social worker. He won't take his medicine. He won't go to the doctor or the day centre. He approaches strangers in the street, asking for money and gets abusive if refused. His fa-

ther doesn't know what to do.
"Then there's Christine, from Wales - I'm changing the names and locations, the calls are confidential - her son lives with her. He's schizophrenic. He is becoming more violent. He re-cently attacked a neighbour. But they won't admit him to hospital. Whenever he's assessed, he has been calm. His mother says she can no longer trust anyone to believe how bad he can get."

The list goes on, drawn from the 1,000 calls a week that Sane receives. "There are families out there just not getting any help," Ms wallace said

She has campaigned for 10 years for better services for schizophrenics. She is not opposed to care in the community. There are places where it works well. There are people for whom it can work," she says. "But it is so clearly not working for some of the most seriously mentally ill. Their numbers may be small, but some people do need haven or asylum care."

Her prescription is a moratorium on long-term care bed closures, a building programme to provide new acute beds and the introduction of more 24hour staffed hostels - a policy the Department of Health has advocated since 1991 but on which, according to the Mental may make some patients more Health Act Commission; progress has been slow.

## Sorrow of Aids inspires poet to TS Eliot award

CLARE GARNER

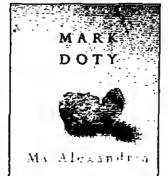
The winner of the TS Eliot Prize was announced last night as was announced last light as Mark Doty, an American who picked up the prestigious award for the first collection of his poetry to be published in the UK.

The £5,000 prize was pre-

sented by Eliot's widow, Valerie, at the Polish Hearth Club, in west London, for My Alexandria (published by Cape), which in-cludes poems inspired by Mr Doty's experience of his partner living with HIV and Aids. First published in the United States, the collection has already won the Los Angeles Times Book Award and the National Book

Critics Award. Liz Lochhead, a poet, performer, playwright and broad-caster, joined James Fenton, Professor of Poetry at Oxford, and Maura Dooley, former lit-erature officer at the South Bank Centre, on the panel of judges. Ms Lochhead said: "Mark Doty's outstanding My Alexandria has been justly laud-ed in his native America and burst upon Britain this year with the force that such rage, beauty and sorrow must summon ...

Doty. His long-term partner was



Winner: Mark Doty's book

diagnosed as HIV-positive in 1989 and these poems are, he says, written in the strange and anxious period between them and the onset of Aids. It's not the shadow we remember from his poetry, but froths of flowers, rainstreaks, rusts ...

The prize - awarded for the best collection of poetry published in the UK and Republic of Ireland - was inaugurated by the Poetry Book Society in 1993 to celebrate its 40th anniversary and honour the poet.

Mr Doty, who lives in Massachusetts, bas written two pre-These are made deeply pervious books of poetry, sonal and poignant for Mr Bethlehem in Broad Daylight and Turtle, Swan.

#### DAILY POEM

#### NO (from My Alexandria)

By Mark Doty (winner of the TS Eliot Prize)

The children have brought their wood turtle into the dining hall because they want us to feel

the power they have when they hold a house in their hands, want us to feel

alien lacquer and the little thrill that he might, like God, show his face. He's the colour of ruined wallpaper,

of cognac, and he's closed, pulled in as though he'll never come out; nothing shows but the plummy leather

of diminutive raspberries. They know he makes night anytime he wants, so perhaps

he feels at the center of everything, as they do. His age,

though they don't mind.

building anywhere. They love

that he might poke out his old, old face, but doesn't, I think the children smell unopened, like unlit candles, as they heft him around the table, praise his secrecy,

holding to each adult face his prayer,

## 67CJ person pe

DO:

of the legs, his claws resembling clusters

greater than that of anyone around the table, is a room from which they are excluded,

since they can carry this perfect

the single word of the shell, which is no.

## Tough-talking Yeltsin gambles his future

HELEN WOMACK

Declaring that "terrorism cannot be tolerated in any civilised state", President Boris Yeltsin yesterday justified his decision to send heavily-armed Kremlin troops into the southern Russian village of Pervomayskoye against Chechen rebels who have been holding about 100 hostages for nearly a week.

The soldiers, backed by helicopter gunships, began storming the village in the morning and Mr Yellsin promised they would quickly finish their missioo, causing little hloodshed Bul, as darkness fell, the army still had to clear Pervomayskoye of scores more gunmen loyal to the Chechen leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, and the fate of the remaining hostages was unknown.

The Interior Ministry said last



Raduyev: Militant leade

night its forces had nearly completed the military operation. There was no mention of casualties or of freed hostages,

"One can say that in Pervomayskove, federal forces are conducting an operation to free the village from a well-armed combal unit whose capabilities are similar to those of a hattalion." admitted a spokesman for the Federal Security Service

(FSB - formerly the KGB). The man leading the Russians in battle, the FSB chief Mikhail Barsukov, said he had given the order to altack after the rebels, belonging to a group calling themselves the Lone Wolves, had started shooting hostages on Sunday, But in a ra-dio broadcast to the Chechen capital, Grozny, the leader of the militants, Salman Raduyev, denied this. "Not a single of killing them," he said. He also denied a report from the Interior Ministry of Dages tan, the region where Pervomayskoye is situated on the horder with Chechnya, that gestani elders who came to netiate with him vesterday morning had been murdered. "No one came for talks with me in the morning and the federal troops

The Russian commandos were charged with the delicate task of saving as many of the hostages as possible. But Mr Yeltsin, mindful that he cannot afford a weak image with presidential elections only five

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the

While the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the dove who negotiated the end of the Budyennovsk crisis, was out of action with a "cold" yesterday, Mr Yeltsin held talks with his hawkish Defence Minister.

were the first to open fire."

The human rights campaigner Sergei Kovalyov, nominated for the Nobel Peace prize for his opposition to the war in Chechnya, lamented the assault on Pervomayskoye. "The so-called operation to free the hostages is developing with great prohahility into an operation to wipe out the hostages," he said on Ekho Moskvy radio. "It is all the same for those unfortunates who is going to kill them - terrorists, artillerymen, pilots or special police.

French government also expressed concern. But Mr Yeltsin, whose administration allowed Chechen rebels to escape after a similar hostage drama in Budyennovsk, southern Russia, last June, is determined to be lougher this time. Evidently he is once again coming under the influence of hardliners who persuaded him in December 1994 to try and crush the Chechen independence drive

Payel Grachev.

the Red Cross will hand the is-

sue over to Admiral Leighton Smith, commander of Nato's

Implementation Force(I-For).

who must judge whether the

parties are complying with Dayton, and if not, what sanctions

Nine prisoners were freed

yesterday by the Bosnian Croats, including three Serbs in

Mostar and three Muslims in

Orasie, on the border with

Croatia. But the planned release

of one Muslim and six Serbs in

Gorazde and 80 Serb PoWs

near Sanski Most was aban-

It was to have been the final

prisoner release of the war. So far, more than 17.000 detainces

have been exchanged since

1992. The Red Cross delegation

lateral release between the

Bosnian Croats and Serbs, but

although the latter sent empty

coaches to Black Dog to collect

any freed Serbs, they failed to

prisoner-exchange committee

eventually arrived at the check-

point. But they said they were

only willing to release 16 pris-

oners, when at least 31 were

"I'm quite disappointed, but not

as much as the prisoners." he

said, referring to the Serbs wbo

had travelled from Mostar.

You can imagine their mood,

he added. "To bring 210 prisoners op to a crossing point and then hring them back is a hit

He was annoyed with both

sides and warned that the planned exchange today of 360

prisoners at Sarajevo airport

looks unlikely to proceed. "Let's be realistic." he said. "It will

New York - The UN Se-

curity Council was set last night

to create a new force of up to

gion of Croatia. The council was

military and civilian mission to

Croatian territory containing

Eastern Slavonia, a sliver of

some oil which borders Serb-

dominated Yugoslavia.

probably not go ahead."

Mr Girod admitted defeat.

Two members of the Serb

deliver any prisoners.

expected.

outrageous.

at Bocac tried to broker a bi-

should be applied.

doned vesterday.

months away, also demanded that the terrorists be punished.

Dudayev himself said everything was being done on his in-structions. He has exposed himself as a bandit, the very chief terrorist," said the President. suggesting that Russia is likely to return to the war in Chechnya itself with a vengeance.

as head of Mr Yeltsin's personal administration marked an advance for the hardliners. Mr with a military intervention. Yegorov, who helped to launch the 1994 crackdown against the Chechens, will join the FSB chief. Mr Barsukov, and the President's personal bodyguard,

coterie around Mr Yeltsin. How ever the Pervomayskoye drama ends the damdenied this. "Not a single hostage was killed yesterday or loday and we have no intention below the liberal Sergei Filatov politician in Moscow, described loss and we have no intention below the liberal Sergei Filatov politician in Moscow, described

Alexander Korzhakov, in the

the crisis as a "political Cher-

nobyl" for him. Today, when the new Duma convenes, there will he uproar from those accusing the President of being 100 feeble, those accusing him of being too brutal and those blaming him for dragging Russia into the Chechen war in the first place. The liberal Yabloko grouping has already declared its intention to call for a vote of no-con-

fidence in the government. Bloody drama, page 15



President Yeltsin (below) promised the onslaught would





## **Bosnian PoW** exchange runs into trouble

EMMA DALY

True to its word, the Bosnian government yesterday refused to release more than 200 Serb prisoners of war, scuppering the planned release of more than 900 people across five front-line check-points. The authorities in Sarajevo had refused last week to endorse a Red Cross plan for a comprehensive prisoner release until the Bosnian Serbs accounted for more than 24,000 people reported missing, of whom 4.000 are believed to have been imprisoned.

All hut three of the 210 Serb prisoners bused by the Bosnian Croats about 120 miles from Mostar to the Black Dog checkpoint, south of the Serb citadel of Banja Luka, were sent back after the Serbs failed to produce any of their detainces. The three exceptions were allowed to cross to Serb-held territory.

Under the Dayton peace plan, the parties are supposed to release all their prisoners by midnight on Friday. But the Muslim-led Bosnian government insists that the issue must be linked to the fate of missing persons, including thousands who disappeared in July after the fall of the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia, and who are alleged to have been murdered and buried in

mass graves.
"They said this plan should include all their allegations about prisoners they think the Bosnian Serbs have, and that includes 3,000 people they think were arrested during the fall of Srebrenica," said Christophe Girod, the Red Cross delegate in charge at Bocac, where more than 400 prisoners were to have been set free.

Red Cross officials say they may only act on the list of prisoners submitted by the parties, and that the fate of those who have disappeared is a separate issue. "We are keeping pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to gel an answer labout those missing from Srebrenica]," Mr Girod said. "We have big fears about where they are."

If the deadline passes without the prisoners being freed.

#### King of Lesotho killed in car accident

Maseru - King Moshoeshoc II of Lesotho, 57, was killed in a car accident, less than two years after regaining the throne of the southern African nation. He had travelled to rural Lesotho to inspect his cattle and was returning to Maseru, the capital, when the accident occurred, the South African ambassador, Gerhard Visser, said. The car left the road, overturned and rolled down an embankment, killing the King and his driver. No other cars were involved. He had been on and off the throne three times in the waves of political unrest that have swept Lesotho since independence from Britain in 1966. He was stripped of all political powers after his last ousting, by military leaders in 1989, and only returned to the symbolic monarchy last year following a coup led by his son and successor, the former King Letsie III. AP

#### Jungle rebels free German hostage

Jakarta — Separatist rehels freed a German hostage, Frank Momberg of the World Wide Fund for Nature to mediate with the Indonesian government for the lives of 14 other captives they are holding in the jungle of Irian Jaya province. British detectives are in the region to help in the search for the hostages -four Britons, two Dutch and eight Indonesians -

#### Israeli President praises anti-Nazis

Berlin - The Israeli President, Ezer Weizman, met members of the wartime German resistance and paid homage to those who gave their lives opposing Hitler. On the second day of his state visit, Mr Weizman laid a wreath at the Ploetzensee prison in Berlin where the Nazis executed 2,500 resistance fighters from Germany and abroad between 1933 and 1945.



#### Gorbachev hint

Paris - The former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev (left) says the more he thinks about it, the more he is likely 10 run in Russia's June presidential election. "It is an issue I examine all the time. I think about it all the time and I am leaning increasingly towards a positive decision." Mr Gorbachev told a French television interviewer in Moscow. AP

#### Nigerian opposition thwarts riot police

Lagos — Nigerian opposition groups thwarted riot police who took over the venue for a service to honour victims of military rule, and met elsewhere. Witnesses said 100 police took over the Shitta area of Lagos, the scheduled place for the multi-religious service, after the event was declared illegal. "We saw Shitta swamped by the police [and] the army and, following prior arrangements, we moved to another area, where we conducted a Christian and a Muslim service," Tunji Adebiyi, of the opposition National Democratic Coalition, said.

#### Former guerrillas 'deny role of women'

Harare — Police who seized all copies of a film on women fighters against white rule in the former Rhodesia were carrying out the wishes of male guerrillas uncomfortable with any portrayal of the women's role, the film-makers said. They accused male fighters who complained to police about alleged obscenities in 5,000 troops, backed by Nato air the film Flame of trying to prevent any negative images of the power, for the last Serb-beld region of Croatia. The council was ture film from the independent Black and White Film Compaexpected to vote to establish a | ny here on Friday, hairing editing on the production, funded by the European Commission. France and Zimbabwean investors. The film focuses on two 15-year-old black girls who suffer sexual explottation, starvation and brutality at the hands of guerrilla superiors before going on to fight valiantly against white

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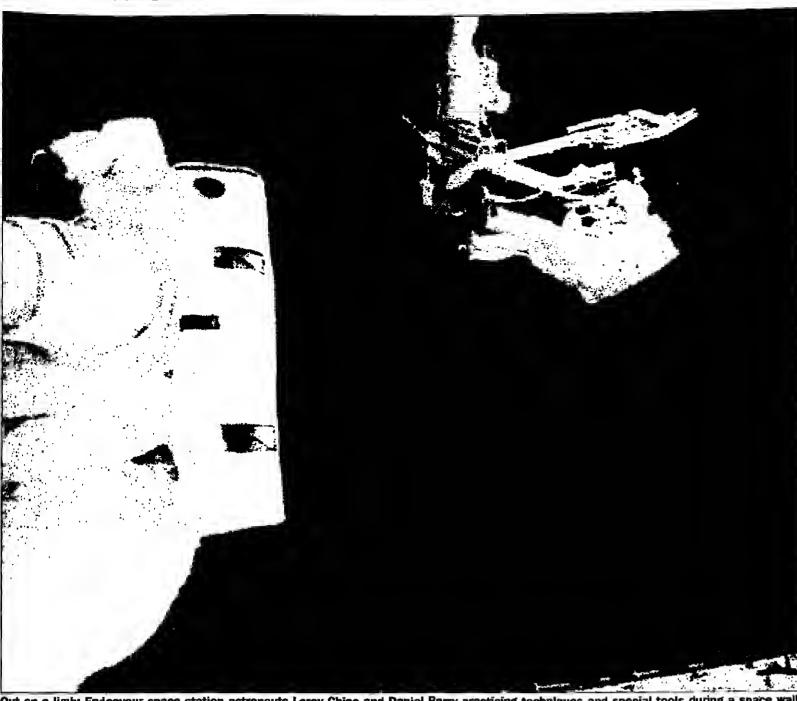
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Out on a limb: Endeavour space station astronauts Leroy Chiao and Daniel Barry practising techniques and special tools during a space walk yesterday. Barry is standing on a portable workstation attached to the shuttle's robot arm

#### De Klerk in move to challenge ANC

ROBERT BLOCK Johannesburg

Terrified by the seemingly unassailable dominance of the African National Congress, and chained to its own past as the creator of apartheid, South Africa's National Party vesterday announced it was spearheading a drive to create a new political force in the country.

The announcement by the South African Deputy President, FW de Klerk, the party leader, contradicted reports on Sunday that the NP was ready to disband and reinvent itself with a new name and image based on Christian principles".

"What we are trying to do is realign the South African political scene," said the NP spokesman, Marthinus van Schalkwyk. "Mr De Klerk has taken the ininative. We now invite other parties and organisations to react to this. This is not a short-term process. It will happen over the long term, but we believe it is for the good of South Africa."

Mr De Klerk denied that the move was a ploy to save bis political career or to rescue the NP's dwindling political for-tunes. He said the initiative was in the country's best interests. He also said that he was 90 per cent sure that the 1999 general election would be contested by parties under their current hanners hut he did not rule out the possibility of political alliances to present a more effective political challenge to

President Mandela's ANC. However, many political commentators have said that Mr Klerk's initiative has an undeniable bearing on the NP's failure thus far to capture the hearts and minds of black communities. Professor Albert Venter, head of political studies at Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg, said the NP had been unable to broaden its appeal beyond 20 per cent of the vole. "If it has any hope of eroding the ANC's support hase it has to capture 40 to 45 per cent of the vote," be said.

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## Chinese say orphanage deaths 'an accident'

photographs were taken.

Mr Liu said that many of the

children had been abandoned

deaths would occur. Choosing

not to dispute the statistics in

the report, he said: "f believe it

is only an accident. It bas oc-

curred due to the carelessness

of some of the staff at the wel-

fare institute. It has not been

done intentionally. Nor is it the

intention of the government."
Asked about the Ministry of

Civil Affairs' statistics for 1989

which showed that one quarter

of orphanage inmates died that

year, Mr Liu said: "I have no-

TERESA POOLE

Pity the Chinese human rights specialists dragged out to defend their country's record. Professor Liu Hainian, the di-

rector of the law institute at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Cass), and his colleagues yesterday trod a careful path between attacking Western human rights groups' allegations over orphanages and calling for improvements in the judicial sysem. Under the watchful eye of a Foreign Ministry official who had organised a "briefing" for foreign correspondents, Mr Liu and his fellow academics chose their words with care.

Commenting on the recent Human Rights Watch/Asia (HRW) report about the alarming death rate in China's orphanages, Mr Liu said he had some doubts" about the "personality" of Zhang Shuyun, the doctor from the Shanghai Chil-

ticed the high percentage of in-fant mortality rate raised by the statistics book ... I think more work should he done to bring down the mortality rates." Shen Guofeng, a senior gov-ernment official, directed his fire because you know it's good at the Channel 4 documentary, Return to the Dying Rooms. He accused the producer of telling staff at a provincial orphanage that "they should make the institute look as poor as possible so as to get more money, more funds". He said the producer

dren's Welfare Institute who child had many diseases". But Mr Liu was surprisingly forthprovided much of the data and photographs. "How can she reright about public sentencing frain from doing anything hul only taking some photographs, rallies. "I have heard that some criminals are marched along the rather than reporting to the restreet, or [paraded] in cars or trucks," he said. "I have already sponsible persons or untying the knot? Why hasn't she done proposed that it should not be that?" In fact, Ms Zhang redone like this. As for the public announcing of verdicts ... we should not do it like this." peatedly reported the abuses, starting three years before the

Mr Liu confirmed that his research body received copies of HRW and Amnesty Internaor were handicapped, so it was tional reports, and that be had sentatives of Amnesty abroad.

> The academics also spoke candidly about planned amendments to China's criminal procedure laws. Professor Wang Jiafu, director of Cass's centre for human rights studies, said the draft law planned to end administrative "custody for investigation", whereby suspects can be held without charge for long periods. By law, there is a 72 hour limit on detention without formal arrest, but in practice this is meaningless because the public security bodies can hold people during "investigations". Mr Liu admitted that there

was "abuse" of the administrative penalties. The aim seems to be to provide for conditions whereby a suspect can legally be held for up to a month, in return for scrapping the "custody for investigation". Some acad-emics "hold the view that this [custody for investigation] should be abolished because they believe it is in violation of the rights of the people con-

#### Paris attempts to lure back tourists

Paris - The French tourist authorines bave launched an aggressive campaign to promote Paris as a boliday destination after a disastrous fall in visitors from abroad in the second half of last year, writes Mary Dejevsky

had painted "the eyes of the

small children so it looks as if the

The scheme, led by Air France in conjunction with the Paris tourist office and its municipal transport company, ofters an all-in price of less than £100 for an air ticket, two nights in a three-star hotel, a weekend travel card and a museums pass, for visitors from North America and Europe, including Britain. The promotion starts on Friday and lasts until the end of

It is designed to counter the effect of boycotts after the resumption of French nuclear tests last June, terrorist bombs in summer and autumn, and the three-week transport strike at

the end of the year. The effects of the anti-nuclear boycott are bard to quantify and have been played down by the authorities. American and Japanese tourism was particularly affected by the bombs, while other European tourists. more of whom travel independently, were more affected by

The financial losses from them, now being assessed, are huge. Air France estimates it lost 300m francs (£39m) in receipts and cancellations between the end of November and mid-December and says the effects are still being felt. Paris local transport is estimated to bave suffered a revenue loss of F500m to F600m. Hotels restaurants and shops were all severely affected.

Air France says the sharpes fall was in Italian and Spanish visitors, which can be explained in part by transport difficulties, in particular the lack of any rail connections with France for three weeks, and the disruption in Paris and other big cities. The weakness of the lira and the peseta against the franc is also likely to have played a role.

Tourism from Britain appears to have stood up relatively well, despite the weakness of the pound, in part because of the success of the Eurostar rail service, which helped to increase the total number of passengers travelling between London and Paris by almost a

But airlines, Air France in particular, suffered a decline in the number of passengers on the London-Paris route.

AB © ■

## Chirac pledges to keep in step with Germans

MARY DEJEVSKY

The French and German govermments are to co-ordinate measures to encourage economic recovery in their two countries, and twin announcements will be made in the next month.

The move, clearly intended to dispel doubts about the deter-mination and ability of Paris and Bonn to realise the single European currency, was fore-shadowed by President Jacques Chirac at his New Year reception for journalists in Paris vesterday and subsequently confirmed by a government source.

"France and Germany," the source said, "want to co-ordinate their calendar for recovery, even if the measures announced here and in Germany are not the same.

Mr Chirac had called for measures to relaunch economic growth, including jobs, to be "coordinated at the European level, notably between France and Germany" and revealed that he bad recently discussed this with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. An almost immediate clarification from the Flysëe stressed that the measures would be subject to France's severe budgetary constraints and that they would not entail any co-ordination of French and German interest rates: "The Bank of France today is independent, as is the Bundesbank.

The French-German initiative comes only days after Germany announced a sharp

performance, which - if it coninues - would mean it could not meet the Maastrichi criteria for currency convergence by 1999, the required date. France also faces difficulty in reducing its deficit to the required 3 per cent of GDP.

Mr Chirac emphasised yesterday that in his view the Maastricht criteria were little more than markers to encourage good economic management, "requiring us all to manage our affairs well". Sound public finances, he had earlier sisted, were "the condition for a dynamic economy and national independence

His remarks about Maastricht may have been intended partly as consolation for Mr Kohl, but also as an answer to critics in France: those who contend that the urgency of meeting the Maastricht criteria is hampering France's economic recovery, and pro-Europeans led by the former president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who recently attacked what he said was Mr Chirac's reticence over Europe.



marked the start of the French political year, which had been delayed for a week by the death of François Mitterrand, and Mr Chirac used it not only to underline the continuing closeness of France and Germany. but also to offer his first cautious

mapping of a policy timetable.
Mr Chirac said that in 1995
he had aimed to reduce the gap between revenue and spending to facilitate lower interest rates. In 1996/97, he said, compulsory levies on income would be "stabilised" and "unjustified spending" cut. The stress would be put on "cost-effectiveness". From late 1997, the emphasis would be on growth and re-

ducing government levies. This timetable suggests that the planned fiscal reform, entailing a complete restructuring of the French tax system, already postponed for a year, could be postponed until 1998.

Mr Chirac also expressed pointed support for the Prime Minister, Alain Juppe, and his government. Repeating that the controversial welfare reform was necessary and would go ahead, he said one condition for it was "to have a good government and a good prime minis-

ter, and that is the case today. Today, parliamentary committees resume their discussion of the "ordinances" that are intended to accelerate the reform measures through parliament. Tomorrow the government is expected to hammer out the vexed question of the new tax - opposed by most of the country - earmarked to pay off the debt accumulated by the current welfare system.

(laim

## Weight of woes widens cracks in Kohl's coalition

Bonn - Germany's conservative government has lost its way. After 13 years in power Helmut Kohl's coalition is wobbling under the weight of a near-stagnant economy, fratricide within the three-party alliance, and powerful onslaughts from an ever more confident opposition.

Only weeks ago the biggest question in German politics was whether Chancellor Kohl would engineer early elections in order to pad out his wafer-Thin majority in parliament. Now senior conservative politicians are wondering aloud if the government will be able to last out the year. Though the Chancellor's mandate does not expire until 1998, he no longer seems to be in control of events.

Turmoil among the Free Democrats, whose 47 MPs keep Mr Kohl in power, poses the most immediate threat. The FDP is increasingly seen as irrelevant, supplanted in its traditional role as the "third force" in national politics by the youthful Greens. in the last two years the party has lost all its seats in 12 out of Germany's 16 Länder, and is facing extinction in three more regional elections in March. According to the latest polis it would be wiped out nationally if

elections were held now. Altempts at damage limitation bave merely aggravated its plight. Petry power struggles have burst into the open, souring relations with the fastshrinking membership. A vocal right wing, trying to push the party towards the nationalist agenda pursued by Jorg Haider's Freedom Party - the FDP's sister-organisation in Austria - is alienating liberals. And a sudden lurch towards Thatcherite economic policies is sowing the seeds of revolt within the government, promis-ing a bead-on confrontation with Mr Kohl.

Chancellor no longer seems to be in control of events, reports

**Imre Karacs** 

narios for a government crisis, an FDP rebellion over next year's budget is the most likely. The party's leadership demands a cut in the so-called "solidarity surcharge". a 7.5 per cent levy on income tax that goes to pay for the rebuilding of eastern Germany. Already three MPs have indicated that they will vote against the budget as it stands in the debate in the autumn. A fourth, Jürgen Möllemann, a former economics minister, yesterday threatened to set up a breakaway liberal party. The de-fection of six MPs would bring

down the government. The Free Democrats might be forced to pull out even be-fore that. On 26 March elections are being held in the states of Schleswig-Holstein, Rhineland-Palatinate and Baden-Württemberg. If the party fails to clear the 5 per cent hurdle for entry into those legislatures, it would he represented in only one regional parliament. That situation would challenge the right of the FDP to be part of the national government. Polls

have the party hovering at 5 per cent in all three states. In some ways early elections

would suit Mr Kohl, His top priority remains European monetary union, but the crucial. Bundestag vote early in 1998 approving the credentials of participating countries has always seemed a hostage to government fortuges. The slim majority for this is also threatened by defections, this time from the ranks of the two conservative parties in the coalition, Mr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union and the Christian Socialist Union led by the finance minister. Theo Waigel. Opposition to the abolition of the Deutschmark is particularly strong in Mr Waigel's party.

The Chancellor is also acutely aware of the slow but steady rise in the fortunes of the main opposition party, the Social Democrats, For the first time in. two years, the polls predict a majority for a Social Democrat-Green coalition, assuming that the Free Democrats fail to get their 5 per cent.

Mr Kohl's personal popularity is also declining sharply-by 10 points in the last three months - and now has a lower rating than the SPD's rising star, Gerhard Schröder, who talks the sort of sensible right-wing economic policies which German voters like to hear. Mr Schröder, the 52-year-old prime minister of the northern industrial state of Lower Saxony, is a leading Euro-sceptic, proposing to renegotiate the Maastricht treaty and to postpone monetary union heyond the turn of the century.

Less than three months after replacing its lacklustre leader, Rudolf Scharping, with Oskar Lafontaine, the SPD is still rehuilding. The longer it bas to groom Mr Schröder for the ti-tle fight against Mr Kohl, the

## Bonn faces EMU reprimand

SARAH HELM

Amid growing signs of desper-ation in Brussels that monetary union may collapse, the European Commission was yesterday forced to admit that even Germany may have to be reprimanded this year for failing to meet key economic targets.

Yves Thibault de Silguy, the economics commissioner, made the admission at a press conference yesterday, intended to publicise the launch next week of a glossy publicity campaign on the single currency.

During what should have been an exercise in the positive promotion of monetary union, Mr de Silguy was pushed on to the defensive as he was asked about the growing signs of economic gloom issuing from Ger-many, the prime mover in the drive for a single currency.

In March the Commission will review the progress made by each member state towards meeting economic convergence rules laid down for monetary union in the Maastrichi Treaty. Those countries which do not meet the rules face strong warnings from the Council of Ministers and may be given orders on how to cut spending.

Germany has shaken its partners by announcing that its deficit for 1995 was 3.6 per cent, well over the 3 per cent limit set by the Maastricht criteria. When the Commission made its assessments last year, only Germany, along with Ireland and Luxembourg, kept within the delicit limits. This year it is

aimost certain that only Ireland and Luxembourg will escape

censure. News of Germany's growing deficit has also undermined attempts by Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, to impose strict convergence rules on other countries who join the monetary union.

In November last year Mr Waigel suggested that, in order to ensure the single currency remains strong, countries should aim to keep their budget deficits as low as 1 per cent. Those who rise above the Maastricht target of 3 per cent would be severely fined, under what Mr

Waigel termed a "stability pact". It is expected that Germany. given its own economic problems, will now reduce its demands for such a pact.

Palestinian election: City's future becomes focus of campaign

## Threats strike fear into Jerusalem voters

ATRICK COCKBURN

warning notice in Hebrew and Arabic was posted oo walls in Jerusalem yesterday telliog voters that if they vote in the election for the Palestinian Council this week, they will lost their residence permits. "Please think twice before you vot.," says the poster, issued by the youth wing of Israel's main right-wing party.

It is a threat Palestinians in Jerusalem take seriously. Candidates spend much of their time trying to persuade supporters it is safe to vote. The election has highlighted the conflict over Jerusalem's future, claimed by both Israelis and Palestinians as their capital.

Palestinians will elect seven members of their council from the Jerusalem constituency, which is much larger than the city of Jerusalem itself. But although the 167,000 Palestinian minority in Jerusalem can vote. Israel does oot want this to be seen as giving them a claim to

Both sides know important precedeots will be set. As a result, Israel insists all the campaigning must take place in-

doors. Haoan Ashrawi, the best-known candidate, was manhandled by police and her car stopped when she tried to enter Jerusalem from the West Bank with posters of herself on the car window. In theory posters are confined to 35 locations, though in fact they are on every wall and shop front.

For weeks there was an angry dispute about voting in five post offices in Palestinian East Jerusalem. European Union monitors wanted them shut for normal business next Saturday wheo the election takes place. They feared organised oppo-oents of the election could sabotage the hallot by buying thousands of stamps and blocking access. Right-wingers io the Knesset said the closure of post offices would concede too much to the Palestinians.

The effort to seal off Jerusalem from the West Bank makes little sense. Once the right of Palestinians in the city to vote in the election for the council was cooceded by the Oslo accords, Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem was already diluted. Nevertheless Israel yesterday ordered its postal service to transfer all bal-lot boxes from Jerusalem to the

Palestinian town of Ramallah. 20 minutes' drive to the north.

Jerusalem nervous. Jonathan Kuttab, a lawyer with experience in human rights organisations who is standing as a candidate, fears Palestinian East Jerusalem will wither because it is cut off from its economic hinterland. "Wheo you isolate a city from the surrounding area you will kill it. The key issue for us is the removal of the checkpoints on the roads between the West

start, according to the Oslo Accords, by 4 May. The elections have emphasised that Palestinians have a stake. The Bank and Jerusalem," he says. Taba agreement in September, Since the first Israeli shutlaid out the terms of Israeli withdrawal, granted autonomy to Palestinian towns down of communications hetween Jerusalem and the West Bank in 1991, economic activsuch as Abu Dhis and Azzariya, ity in East Jerusalem has fallwhich are only 10 mioutes' drieo by 40 per ceot. By 8pm the ve from Jerusalem. It will be difficult to separate these areas, cummercial ceotres are empty and look as if they are under a politically and economically, from Jerusalem proper.

Mr Kuttab says Palestinians

in the city are suffocating be-

nies them permission to build

new houses. In a city partly re-

liant on tourism, Palestinians have not been able to build a

single hotel since Israeli cap-

tured East Jerusalem in 1967.

Negotiations about the final

status of Jerusalem have to

Poll blackmail: Election candidate Hanan Ashrawi holds a poster threatening Palestinlans

#### Claimants fight for **Marcos** millions

STEPHEN VINES Hong Kong

Almost ten years after President Ferdioand Marcos made his ignominious exit from the Philippines accompanied by millions of dollars, claimants to his fortune met in Hong Kong vesterday to see if they could reach agreement on who was entitled to \$475m (£306m) deposited in Swiss banks.

This mediation is but one in 1 long series of efforts to unteeze the considerable assets of the late president and deliver the proceeds to legitimate chimants. It was initiated by the Sviss Bank Corp and Credit Susse, the banks holding the meoey under a freeze order from the Swiss government.

The banks had planned to blaze of publicity but by the end of yesterday afternoon an embarrassed Chester Crocker, a former US Assistant Secretary of State, who is chairing the meeting, emerged to say that a blackoul on news had beeo agreed by all parties. He added, however: Things are off to a not bad start."

There are hasically three groups of claimants to the money in Swiss banks and other funds believed to be in the US. Hoog Kong, Loodoo and other countries. The Marcos fam-

gained as a result of corruptioo and should be paid to them under the terms of the late

presideot's will. The Philippines government is claiming \$1.7bn in unpaid taxes and groups representing 10,000 alleged human rights victims have a claim based oo a Hawaii court ruling which in 1994 awarded them \$1.9bn. Other, less substantiated claims have come from individuals and companies alleging that Marcos, who died in 1989, owed them substantial sums.

Imelda Marcos, his widow, said the mediation effort was a mockery of justice but nevertheless, under a US court order. ber family's interests were represected by her American

Hong Kong by bumao rights demonstrators. They took special exception to Robert Swift. who is acting oo behalf of the Swiss banks, claiming that this was his "final act of treachery" after withholding the mooey from Marcos detainees.

Romeo Capuloog, represeoting the Selda coalitioo of human rights claimants, warned Presideol Ramos of the Philippines against entering into an immoral deal" that would "absolve" Marcos and his family of human rights violations.

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## King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho

Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho was an ill-starred king. His reign began in subservience - his country was ruled by Britain - and it ended when his authority among his own people was uncertain. He was buffeted over the years by the struggles for power in Lesotho, and for much of the time he was forced to bend the knee to political overlords. He was twice sent into exile and once dethroned. From beginning to end his life reflected the unceasing conflicts among the fewer than 2 million Basotho whose mountain country is entirely surrounded by South Africa.

Constantine Bereng Seeiso, born in 1938, was the descendant and bore the name of Moshoeshoe, the 19th-century warrior who founded the Basotho nation. He became king when Lesotho's independence was restored in 1966. He studied at Roma College in Lesotho, but amid anxiety that his stepfather was seeking to poison him was sent to Ampleforth College in Britain and went on to Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Spending holidays with a landed family in the west of England he took in fishing, shooting and riding to hounds.

He turned 21 while still engaged with his PPE degree at Oxford, and wrote to the Regent in Lesotho to note that he wanted to assume his rightful title at home. That he did, and led the Basotho to independence. But be was soon tussling with the elected prime minister. Jonathan's autocratic rule left



Leabua Jonathan, for greater Moshoeshoe kicking his heels executive power. Jonathan acon the sidelines, a figurehead cused him of conspiring with the opposition to bring down the government and temporarily placed him under bouse arrest. That was but a curtain-raiser to Jonathan's seizing power in 1970. Mosboeshoe was sent into exile in Holland for eight months and allowed to return only on condition that he kept out of politics.

The next 20 years of

on the sidelines, a figurehead king despite his undouhted popularity. His elegance and his natural courtesy were no match for Jonathan's wiliness. He could do little but indicate his criticisms of the government. Nor did his position ease after a military coup in 1990. For be was again in conflict over the extent of his power and was sent into exile in Britain. He was deposed and his eldest son was put on the throne as Letsie III.

Landlocked Lesotho is totally vulnerable to South Africa: its economie existence is dependent on its neighbour through export of workers, especially for gold-mining. They remit US\$500m each year, account-ing for nearly balf of Lesotho's gross national product. South African interference originally helped to bring Jonathan to power and kept him there, and then brought him down when be apartheid across the border.

The changes of the 1990s in South Africa in their turn served to return Moshoeshoe to Lesotho and to the throne; in search of stability, regional leaders led by President Nelson Mandela negotiated restoration of constitutional rule. In January last year, Letsie thankfully yielded the throne to

But Moshoeshoe still had an uneasy passage in defining his government of Prime Minister

Ntsu Mohehle - who, para-doxically, although left-wing and nationalist, owes his place in Lesotho to belp from the South Africa of apartheid times. Mosboeshoe's sudden death. yesterday, reportedly in a car ac-cident while travelling from his royal village to the capital, Maseru, interrupts that evolu-tion, and leaves question-marks over the role of the king.

1 first met Moshoeshoe when Britain was the colonial power and he had the title of Paramount Chief. As a reporter with the then Rand Daily Mail in Johannesburg I was granted an interview but a Colonial Office offical warned me that under no circumstances was I to address him as "Your Majesty". Britain had the Queen and no competitor was to be allowed, it seemed. Whitehall had coined some other Sesotho term for him, which was supposed to convey the idea of majesty without actually saying it. But I knew that Moshoeshoe was venerat-

ed as king by the Basotho. Se throughout the opportunity. seized every opportunity to tos in "Your Majesty". Each time. out of the corner of my eye. I saw the official who was sitting in on the interview go red in the Some 30 years later, while

Moshoeshoe was still in exic, he invited me to a weekend conference of interested people held outside London to create an Institute for Democrace in Africa. The institute was intovative and significant: it wasone of the early statements by African leaders that it was primarily up to Africa to and that fostering democracy was the first step. There was a certain piquancy in having a king engaged in the pursuit of

democracy.

Apart from the serious discussions of the conference, I had pleasure in sitting down to breakfast each morning next to Moshoeshoe and saying "Good morning, Your Majesty".

Benjamin Pogrund

Constantine Bereng Seeiso: born Constantine Bereng Seeiso, vorn 2 May 1938; Paramouni Chief of Basutoland 1960-66; crowned 1966 King Moshoesthae II of Lesotho; exiled from Lesotho 1970; stripped of constitutional powers February 1990; dethroned November 1990; in exile in the UK 1000 03 UK 1990-92; reinstated as King January 1995; married 1962 Princess Tabitha Masentle (two sons, one daughter); died 15 January 1996.

## **Richard Cobb**

The magic of Richard Cobh's disapproved of military coups style, combined with an incomparable sense of place and interest in human nature, made him a genius among post-war British historians.

Cobh acquired the love of France and of shocking which were to dominate his life while staying with an irreverent family in Paris in the 1930s. Research into the most extreme of French revolutionaries, the Hehertistes, was interrupted by wartime service in the British army which, for Cobb, included cleaning latrines, trying to learn Polish, serving with the Czechoslovak Independent Brigade Group and writing for La Renaissance du Bessin. Affavourite cities (first visited to avoid appearing as a witness in a murder trial), he lived in Paris from 1946 to 1955, doteaching English, and writing.

He had many friends in the French Communist Party and, in part because they bad pro-vided him with frequent hot meals, he wept at the death of Stalin. He was exuberant and unconventional. At one of the night-clubs be frequented, he met ex-King Farouk, with whom he shared the same birth-date. They occasionally drank together, and 40 years later Cobb was one of the few people to remember that, in the Fourth Republic, un farouk was a name for a 10,000-franc nate. He once greeted the dawn nude, in the company of a dozen similarly unattired men and women. in the fountains of the Place de la Concorde.

While living in Paris be acquired the knowledge of France which made him the poet of the vespasienne and the fille mon-tante, of bourgeois ladies of Roubaix and the museum of crime at Lyon, Essentially English, he loved France so much that he believed that to live there was to live doubly and several times

applied for naturalisation.

and compared Paris under the Fifth Republic to Warsaw after the 1944 rising, so great was the scale of destruction of the old huildings and streets he loved so ardently. He had, bowever, already made a break with France by accepting a teaching position at Aberystwyth in 1955. In 1961 he obtained a post at Oxford. His style of teaching, talking, drinking, and afterdinner behaviour - chariot rac-

ing in Balliol senior common room was the least of his exploits - made this sity, often uneasy man a living legend. Cohh was thin, looked like a cross between Voltaire and George VI, and was once described by a ter a year in Brussels, one of his friend as the dirtiest soldier he had ever seen. His eyes were usually drunk, with curiosity or lowed by an armée révolutionalcohol, but his capacity to renaire of books. Among the best cover from the night before was To he taught by Richard Cobb, often in a class as small as an early Christian cénacle,

was to be taught life. He did not simply describe, he transformed himself into, a farmer overeating merely for the pleasure of depriving Parisians of their food; a revolutionary who had mannated in envy all his life and was using his position nn the Committee of Public Safety for revenge; or a tricoteuse who preferred the lists of the guillotined to contain spectacular noble, rather than plebeian,

Cobb enjoyed Oxford, perbaps because it provided so many opportunities to study individuals and puncture pretension. He admired Maurice Bowra and Arthur Marder as much as French colleagues such as his patron Georges Lyebore or the historian of the sansculottes Albert-Marius Soboul. He described the funeral of his friend Jack Gallagher, the historian of Africa, as "the saddest

sight I have ever seen". Cobb loved archival research, particularly (until he was After 1958, as for as I was banned after a row) in the concerned, nothing could ever Archives Nationales in Paris. be quite the same again." He one of the most beautiful build-

ings in Europe. He wrote as well as he taught, at first articles in learned journals such as Présence Ardennaise, then exhaustively researched studies of the revolutionary armies of 1793-94, popular protest and death in Paris.

His first book to reach a wider audience was A Second Identity (1969 - the title refers to his French self), a collection of reviews on subjects ranging from the Jacohin historian Georges Lefebvre to "la bonne dame de Loudun" Marie Besnard, accused of having murdered 11 of her relations. His style, at once insolent, erudite and parenthetic (sentences could be as long as paragraphs). won him many admirers. A Second Identity was fol-

were Promenades: a historian's literature (1980), which described favourite novelists such as Marcel Pagnol and Raymond Queneau: The Streets of Paris (1980), a dazzling essay on four arrondissements of Paris, extolling balustrades and courtyards of the 19th century, wasbable brothel-fronts of the 1930s and Tunisian shops of the 1960s, with photographs by Nicholas Breach; Still Life (1983), sketches from a Tunbridge Wells childhood; A Classical Education (1985), an unforgettable account of his friendship with a Dublin matricide: and Something to Hold Onto (1988), openly Proustian autobiographical sketches de-scribing his relations, the book

pleasures of the lavatnry. Cobh helieved that a historian should get inside the threshold, step beyond the door, and write about private people and private places. Accents, clothes (in his youth Tunbridge Wells was, "a place where cinthes called in ciothes, cutting out words and greetings"), family photographs and loneliness in cities interested him more than intellectual debates or economic graphs. He

illustrator Frank Papé and the



Cobb: an example of the scholarly life and a lord of misrule

extended the frontiers of history so far that his books included descriptions of the tin trunks of French officials on the way to the colonies in a Marseilles botel, girls in hotel rooms crouching over bidets in "a rapid gesture of nrthodoxy rather than of hygiene" and the third army, of "enormous, long-whiskered, dark-coated, redeyed rats", below the Germans and the resisters, which surfaced in Paris during the occupation. His unique ability to understand other people enabled him to make collaborators buman and a childhood in Tunbridge Wells between the wars interesting. At least until his last marriage, and the birth of his chil-

routines and faces. His own private threshold could be bard to cross. One of his chief pleasures was to attack solemnity and falsity, the cults of statistics, of student revolution and, in the end, of the French Revolution.

"Emphasise my frivolity," he once told me, as he poured the last of a bottle.

Philip Mansel

Richard Cobb's A Classical Education is a short and macabre book mainly concerned with an Irisb schoolfriend who murdered his mother, partly (the irish police then suspected) at Cobb's urging, writes Tim Hilton. This matricide was of especial fascination to Cobb, the future historian of many criminal acts. Cobb kept up with the writers such as Julian Maclaren

murderer during and after his long detention and delighted in inviting him to the Balliol high table, on one occasion carefully placing him next to an Emeritus Professor of Law: "My guest is keenly interested in the Irish penal system."

Cobb was personally a pacific man. Yet he liked to study violence and however eminent his academic position be was inclined both to low life and to pranks that his colleagues considered juvenile. His sympathy with people at odds with the police began, if not at school, with his first experience of France. He was asked to leave Shrewshury immediately after he gained a Postmastership at Merton College. The intervening year was spent in Paris. where he first of all discovered the socialist politician and historian Jean Jaurès, a lasting

understood poverty." As an undergraduate in the late Thirties Cobh regularly returned to Paris and attended lectures at the Sorbonne given by Georges Lefebvre - the most important of the influences on Cobb's historical writing. The Frenchman was Marristinclined hut not a Marxist. He was interested in mentalités and history written "from below". He was a master of archival research; and however sophisticated bis methods were in bbrary or study be wrote histoin terms that could be understood by a layman. All this was transmitted to Cobb.

Some of Cobb's own work in the Archives Nationales be did not use for 30 years. One of his most perfect books, Death in Paris 1795-1801 (1978), was the result of the discovery of old notes in a forgotten suitcase. Other work of the post-war period is still missing, in par-ticular his short stories, in English and French, his only essays into imaginative writing. Cobb was a visitor to Fitzrovia during his infrequent post-war trips to London and was friendly with

Ross, Dylan Thomas, Dan Davin and Louis MacNeice. Cobb was not a Bohemian. In Paris he was poor, studied in the day and spent his nights in the bars and brothels that are lov-

ingly described in later writings.

He relied on subventions from Tunbridge Wells, also journalism and a position teaching English to Air France stewardesses. He was briefly married to an employee of the SNCF. Characteristically, Cobb used his wife's theap rail tickets to study atchives in the regions and consult with the érudits locaux

who shared his historical interests. There was a second Parisian marriage in the Forties, bewildering alike to Cobb, his new wife, and her right-wing and Catholic military family. Cobh liked to claim that in his Parisian years he was married

man with a good heart; he members of the Party, prominent among them his friend Alhert Soboul, were contributing to the post-war revival of French history. Certainly Cobb ate and slept in many Communist homes; but his own beliefs were, by comparison, simple. He disliked authority and people who sought power in any sphere. He often spoke of the great political truth that most people simply want their rulers to leave them alone. It was because of Cobb's Communist connections that his work was known to the English Marxist historians who became prominent in university departments in the late Fifties and early Sixties. One of them was Christo-

> brought Cobb to Balliol. Cobb was concerned with his feeling that he might one day write history that was a part of literature. A Second Identity, whose long autobiographical preface explains Cobb's alle-giances within two differing cultures, first revealed Cobb to an English audience as a writer who combined great knowledge with extraordinary prose,

pher Hill, who eventually

biography of Simenon was wisely abandoned. He none the less made a contribution to the prose of our time, often in an unexpected fashion. He was for instance the master of a specialised genre, the academic flore (or encomium). Within this form he wrote humorously, but with delicate funerary feelings. Some examples are to be found in his People and Places (1985). It is characteristic of Cobb that this book opers with an eloge not to an historian but to the owner of a longestablished Parisian night-chb.

Those of us who were Baliol undergraduates while Coob was there will long remember his inspiring talk and his uter disregard for decorum and lis-cipline. I still hear the French martial songs and the crashing of glasses. He was both an exto the French Communist Par- ample of the scholarly life and a lord of misrule.

In his later years Cobb gave popular lectures in Worrester College, always with a pint on the lectern, saw old pupils at lunchtime, then cycled up the Woodstock Road to his home at Wolvercote - a small bouse. not at all pretty - where he lived with his wife, Margaret, a former student from his time in Leeds. The acknowledgements to Paris and its Provinces (1975) speak of his love of family and his affection for Worcester.
"Now I feel that perhaps I do have a place in an institution. Of course, I may be quite alone in this conviction."

Richard Charles Cobb. historian: born Essex 20 May 1917; Lecturer in History, UCW Aberyst-wyth 1955-61; Lecturer, Leeds University 1962; Fellow and Tutor in Modern History, Balliol College, Oxford 1962-72 (Hon Fellow 1977), FBA 1967; Reader in French Revolutionary History, Oxford University 1969-72. Professor of Modern History 1973-84; Senior Research Fellow, Worcester College, Oxford 1984-87; CBE 1978; married thirdly 1963 Margaret Tennant (three sons, one daughter); died but he never joined literature in sons, one daughter); d the way he privately boped. A Abingdon 15 January 1996.

#### Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

HAPPOLD: Edmund (Ted), distinguished engineer and most beloved man, died in his sleep at home on Friday 12 January 1996. A memorial meeting for worship, to give thanks for his life, will be held at 2pm on Wednesday 31 January at Friends House, Euston Road, London.

Appointments for Gazette BIRTHS.
MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, t Canada Square, Ca-nary Whart, London E14 5DL, tel-phoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 6171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.59 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be sub-mitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Date of Kest. Vice-Chairman, stients the ar-pual dinner of the British Overseas Trade Board Brown's Hotel, London W1.

Changing of the Gnard The Household Cavaliv Mounted Regences mounts the Queen's Life Guard in Rome Guards (Lim, Nigniegen Company Gredader Guards grounds the Queen's Quard, at Bueldingham rajace, 11. Mara, hand provided by the Weish Forthcoming marriages

Miss N. K. Fox and Mr A. J. Seery The engagement is announced be-tween Natisha, daughter of Colin and Marianne Fox, and Adrian, son of Jack and Mary Seery.

Birthdays

Mr Colin Banks, graphic designer, 64; Sir Alastair Blair, former Writer to the Signet, S8; Air Marshat Sir Robert Craven, 80; Sir Robin Dunn, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 78; Professor John Enderby, physicist, 65; Professor Sir Peter Hirsch, metallurgist, 71: Professor Elaine Murphy, psychogeriatneian, 49; Mr Richard Ormond, Director, National Martime Museum, 57; Miss Nadine Peppard, race relations consuttant, 74: Mr Keith Shackleton,

artist and naturalist, 73; Professor Sir Frederick Stewart, geologist, 80; Lord Thomson of Monifieth, former chairman of the IBA, 75; Mr Cliff Thorburn, snooker player, 48; Miss Christine Truman, tennis player, 55; Lady (Marina) Vaizey, art critic, 58; Professor Sir William Wade QC, former Master, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, 78; Mr Michael White, theatre and film producer, 60.

Anniversaries

Births: François-Joseph Talma, actor-manager, 1763; André Michelin,

tyre maker, 1853; Ethel Merman (Zimmerman), singer and actress, 1909. Deaths: Edmund Spenser, poet, 1599; Carole Lombard (Jan Alice Peters), actress, killed in an air crash, 1942; Arturo Toscanini, con-ductor, 1957. On this day: tvan the Terrible, the first Russian Tsar, was crowned, 1547; the British expedition led by Ernest Shackleton reached the South Magnetic Pole, 1909; the Gulf war started, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Berard and Others, St Fursey. St Henry of Cocket, St Hon-oratus of Arles, St Marcellus I. pope

National Portrait Gallery: Roger Hargreaves, "American Photogra-phers: Richard Avedon, Annie Leicovitz, Irving Penn", 1.10pm. Highgate Ulerary and Scientific In-stitution, London No: Al Alvarez, "The Language of Dreams", 7.45pm. Leicester University: Professor Steven Myint, "Water Water Everywhere, but is it safe to drink?"

Luncheons

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC MP, Sec retary of State for Foreign and Com-monwealth Affairs, held a luncheon vesterday at I Cariton Gardens London SWt, in honour of Dr Jaime Gama, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic.

## Unsubstantiated bias allegation should not be made

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hutchison and Lord Justice Thorpe):

19 December 1995

dren. Cobb was a lonely man

who sought safety in familiar

A barrister's duty to put his client's case could not extend to advancing his client's un-substantiated belief that the judge was corrupt or biased. The barrister's duty was either to decline to comply with his client's instructions or to withdraw from the case.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the de-fendants, James K. Douglas and his wife, Diane Douglas, from Mr Recorder Donne QC's decision that the plaintiff. R.G. Thatcher, had a right to use a slipway which was enforceable against the defendants.

The plaintiff claimed a right to use a concrete slipway leading to tidal mudflats in the area of the commoo boundary between his and the defendants' houses. In January 1994 the recorder decided that the plaintiff and his successors in title for the plaintiff.

had an easement over the slipway which, although not registered, was an overriding interest within section 70 of the Land Registration Act

The defendants appealed. Their original notice of appeal asserted that the recorder's decision was against the weight of the evidence and his decision on section 70 was wrong.

When the appeal was listed for hearing in October 1995, the defendants wished to advance allegations that the recorder had been guilty of corruption and bias. The appeal was adjourned to allow the recorder to comment on the allegations. A 16-page document containing allegations was sent to the recorder, who dealt with the specific points which he felt merited comment. recorder.

Graham Lyons (Peter M. Ross, Havant) for the defendants: T.A.S. Pearson (Michael Daltons, Hayling Island)

LAW REPORT

16 January 1996

Lord Justice Nicholls, giving the court's judgment, said that the document sent to the recorder contained matters which illustrated both the complete inappropriateness of asserting that such matters could even begin to be indicative of corruption or bias and the irrelevance and impertinence of

asking such questions. It was most regrettable that the appeal was at a late stage converted into an attack on the integrity of the recorder without the smallest foundation or the slightest evidence. Earlier letters written by the first defendant to the Lord Chancellor, the recorder, his own solicitors and the court revealed paranoid thinking and cootained threats to do grievous bodily harm to the

In the summer the first defendant apparently accepted proper advice that the appeal should not be contaminated by allegations of corruption and bias. At a late stage he changed his instructions and insisted they should be made. Mr Lyons

acted on those instructions. While the court appreciated the difficult situation in which Mr Lyous found himself, he had made a grave error of judgment in complying with his client's in-structions. The duty of counsel to put his client's case could not extend to advancing the client's belief, unsubstantiated by any evidence, that the judge was corrupt or biased. His duty in such circumstances was either to decline to comply with the instructions or to withdraw

from the case. Moreover the defendants had been granted a legal aid certificate to pursue the appeal. Specific anthority ought to have been obtained from the legal aid board for the further conduct of the appeal on added grounds of corruption and bias.

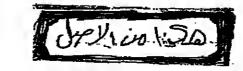
Thus the board would have had

the opportunity to refuse to al-low public money to be wasted on such an unwarranted Company of

Having considered the other arguments the recorder's finding of an easement intended to bind successors in title was not against the weight of the evidence. The question whether the easement was an overriding interest within section 70 depended on whether Celsteel Ltd v Alton House Holdings Ltd [1985] 1 WLR 204 was distinguishable or wrong. No ground had been shown on which the decision was distinguishable.

It was argued that the decision was wrong because rights under the Land Registration Rules 1925 applied only to legal and not to equitable interests. That argument involved a restriction which, in property legislation, could not be implied when it could so easily have been expressed. The recorder's decision was correct on this point also.

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister



Could schools deliver a national moral curriculum?

Judith Judd examines the limits to teaching ethics Beyond good and evil

Adam and Eve. good and evil, right and wrong are back in fashion. Jesting Pilate's doubts about truth are out. Let us judge as well as undersland, punish as well as praise, discipline as well as tolerate. That was the flavour of

> Nick Tate, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, who complained loudly that morality had become no more than a matter of taste; a moral choice was becoming indistinguishable from choosing a new sofa. There should be a national moral code for schools which should teach pupils more clearly about the difference between right

"politically correct" young eachers who are so afraid of hurting their pupils' selfesteem that they cannot get off the moral fence. Dr Tate was careful to castigate society as well as schools for young people's belief that morality is merely a question of taste. Yet his general message is clear enough. Teachers could do better in inculcating right and wrong. He is not alone in his rallying call for a return to tradition. His drift is in tune with

and wrong. He deplored

During the past decade, the right in this country has allied itself with traditional Christianity and called for a return to old-fashioned morality. Like the Radical Right in the United States, it believes schools are ceotral to change. This concern with school's role in teaching morals is relatively recent. Spiritual and

which foundered so disas-

trously in John Major's back to

that schools' moral and spiritual standards should be officially inspected.

Yet the notion that schools are failing to teach morality is an odd one. Dr Tate's analysis is flawed in several respects. First, as he points out, remarks yesterday from Dr schools are "by and large, very moral places". How could it be otherwise? Few teachers punishing a playground bully would fail to pronounce on violence. Few teachers of a class where children's pens keep mysteriously disappearing would not deplore stealing. From the age of three or four, teachers have to help children to take turns and share with others or it would not be possible to teach them at all.

and single-parent families, abortion, divorce, adultery, consuming soft drugs, television sex and violence. Even Dr Tate's contention that teachers are concentrating too much on self-esteem in personal and social education lessons and too little on moral error will be challenged by those who believe that lack of

New Testament "love thy neighbour" thrown in. After

that, it would be in difficulties.

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of

the School Curriculum and

Assessment Authority, called

for a modern Ten Command-

ments. But how much of what

is modern could be included?

Stealing and killing are wrong

hut what about homosexuality

A government that has denigrated teachers can hardly call on them to be the nation's moral leaders

suggests, a few trainee teachers who are nervous about making moral pronouncements, but it is actions, not words, that count. And, once teachers are in schools, moral actions are an unavoidable part of their daily life.

These teachers, Dr Tate suggests, are so intimidated by the prevailing culture which opposes the imposition of the Conservatives' attempt to racial, class or gender values take the moral high ground, oo pupils that they are frightened to teach the difference between right and wrong. The comment will play well with Conservatives and traditionalists who castigated Labour councils for their anti-sexist and anti-racist initiatives. But surely both sexual and racial discrimination would appear

on Dr Tate's list of wrongs. That highlights a further difficulty for Dr Tate's proposed national moral code, which he envisages would be moral education was first drawn up by employers, teachmade a legal requirement in ers. trade unionists, acadethe 1988 Education Reform mics. That is: there would Act, which said the curriculum probably be little chance of

There may be, as Dr Tate self-esteem, not original sin, is at the root of much wrongdoing in society.

However, even if a national moral code could be drawn up, it would make little sense to ask teachers to implement it. International studies show

that one of the reasons why Britain lags behind other countries academically is that our schools have too many goals. They are supposed to teach children about God, sex, how out to get Aids, not to get fat. not to take drugs, to be good citizens. By contrast, teachers in France believe their job is to teach the curriculum. Professor David Reynolds of Newcastle University, a contributor to the International School Effectiveness Project, points out that in Taiwan, schools have only two goals, academic achievement and good citizenship. The latter is achieved through practical measures,

such as school councils. The last thing schools in this stence that moralshould prepare "the spiritual, agreeing oo aoything beyond ity should be taught "across Agovernment that has spent so moral, cultural, mental and the obvious. His national the curriculum" in all sub-much time denigrating teachety". Later, ministers decreed mandments with a dash of issues is the result of a decline moral leaders.

in the importance of religion and churchgoing, reflection, as Dr Tate acknowledges of the values in society. Christianity no values of education. It is no good trying to base morality in school on Christianity in a society where most children are of no faith and the rest belong to a vari-ety of others. There are now more Muslims than Methodists in Britain. Most teachers are not Christians and they are not prepared to stand up in class and say that Chris-tianity is right.

Schools may lack the clear moral framework that Dr Tate and Sir Ron lament, but there have been gains as well as losses. Schoolchildren were once told they would hum in hell if they did oot attend Sunday school. They were often beaten for hitting each other. Children may have done what they were told more often but they were less well equipped to challenge adult

follies, to think for themselves. Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, was cautious in her response to Dr Tate. Schools had an important role to play in teaching pupils the difference between right and wrong, she said, but it was the attitude of parents that was

of paramount importance. She is right. Children spend most of their time at home and their role models are their parents. Their ideas of right and wrong are formed before they arrive at school. To impose a new set of duties on over-stretched schools to attempt to improve the nation's morals would he an unoccessary distraction.

Teachers cannot be expected to carry out such a crusade. Indeed, they lack authority and confidence they once had. That country need is yet another list is the fault of society in general of things they must do, let and politicians in particular physical development of forum would simply end up jects. The real change in the ers is in a poor position to call pupils at school and in soci- reinventing the Ten Com- way schools deal with moral on them to be the nation's

2. The first lesson to teach a child 3. All religions have much to teach us 4. "No single form of the family is a kind of God-given ideal" — Church of England working name remore connection working party report, Something to Celebrate . The primary place of education is to make one's mind a pleasant place in which to live' - Sydney J Harris, American journalist 6. Competitive team sports are degrading 7. Graffiti is just a means of 8. "A child is not a vase to be filled but a fire to be lit" - Rabelais 9. If we have to have a nativity play the read must not be writed

10. "If all through school the young were provoked to question the Ten Commandments, the sanctity of revealed religion, the foundations of patriotism, the number of patriotism and the turn party system. religion, the toundations or particularit, the profit motive, the two-party system, monogarry, the laws of incest, and so on there would be such creativity that society would not know where to turn. would not know where to turn.

"RD Laing, The Politics of Experience

news analysis

#### The Trendy

NAME: SARAH JOHNSON

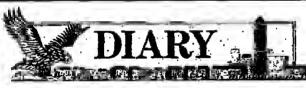
AGE: 26 TRAINING: THE VINE COMPREHENSIVE,

> BASINGSTOKE AMBRIDGE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

SPORT: ROCK-CLIMBING

CYCLE: TREK MOUNTAIN BIKE

FAVOURITE MUSIC: PULP **RELIGION: STRICTLY NEW AGE** 



The Traditionalist

TRAINING: KING EDWARD VI GRAMMAR

SCHOOL STOMPGROVE

ORIEL COLLEGE, OXFORD

SPORT: RUGBY UNION (STRICTLY AMATEUR).

CAR: BRITISH-MADE - USUALLY ROVER

NAME: GEORGE BATES

AGE: 53

#### Old rockers for the Tories

**FAVOURITE MUSIC: ELGAR** 

4-95

75

1900 Te

Sec

أترا وعقور

7

RELIGION: C of E

Those aged 18 to 25 are being invited to "Rock the Vote" next month when a new campaign, backed with £1m of record companies' money, tries to encourage young people to use their vote at the next general election.



Nakeman: true blue

The move, based on a similar exercise in the United States, is, according to invitations sent out, "a nationwide music-lead campaign. Nice concept, never mind the spelling.

At times like these, my beart ing the Britpop supergroups four friends in Newcastle?

Generation Why

OH NO, WE'RE OUT OF

have to go into the

LENTILS ! SOMEONE WILL

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

Blur and Oasis as supporters. The Tories have always found it harder to rally rock stars to

ich is the order of the day -- Charlotte

4. Spare the rod and spoil the child

5. The family is the finit of all morals

6. Feduvate then without religion and you make them but elever desily - Duke

7. We do not need to teach me was as a suparate subject. We sived to invit discipline

Team sparts teach competitiveness as well

and respect. Through scattenic rigour

s, the glorious inequality of talent, of

Felix E Schelling American

Bronte, Jane Eyre

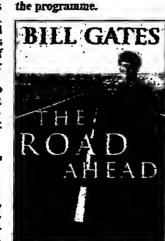
Not this time, though. A umphantly that Mick Jagger, Rick Wakeman and Queen's Brian May are all true blue. The former Who and Small Faces drummer Kenney Jones even has a photograph of John Major above his snooker

Mr Major would be wise to parade all the aforesaid stars at his side in the election campaign. They will make him look terribly youthful.

#### Friendly Roy

Those who watched the new drama series Our Friends in the North, telling the story of four Newcastle chums, may have noticed a peculiar reference. Last night's episode was set at the time of the 1964 general election; and at one point the commentator announced:
"Leslie Seymour has lost
Sparkbrook." The fate of that Birmingham seat is not generally remembered as one of the most newsworthy items of elec-

publicity. And what better to about the series than a men-Sparkbrook, particularly as the victor at Sparkbrook that night in 1964 was Roy Hattera column in another place, was Conservative Central Office duly flattered by the reference spokeswoman tells me tri- to his night of glory - and devoted his entire column to



E-mail your comments ...

#### Gates wakes up to e-mail

The famous, such as President Clinton, and the rich, such as Microsoft's founder. Bill Gates, may have e-mail addresses, but goes out to the Conservative Party, Labour is already claiming in a programme about do they actually read what's sent to them and bother to reply? In the case of Gates, the And Mr Tate's office has now

TO THE VILLAGE

ALDRE ON FOOT ...

The answer could be that answer is yes ... and speedily. even a good new drama needs A Londoo reviewer of his new book found a typographical spark a columnist into writing error and e-mailed him about it on Sunday morning. A tion of Leslie Seymour insing response came within four hours; all the more impressive as it would have been the middle of the night at his Seattle sley? Mr Hattersley, who has base. Does the man never sleep? Or does he sleep with a "you have new mail" bleeper under his pillow?

#### 'Sun' under a moral cloud Tate: strict with the Sun

Nick Tate, the Government's school curriculum adviser, who vesterday launched his crusade for schools to teach more about morality, has a Ninetiesstyle morality of his own, i gather.

Last month the Sun published a full-page article, pur-portedly by Tate, whose name appeared at the top in very bold type, on how calculators little Rhodes in schools were stopping a geoeration of children from learning basic sums. The only problem was, Mr Tate didn't write it. Neither was he interviewed for it. The piece in fact came from a telephone chat between a Sun reporter and an official at the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, of which Mr Tate is chief executive.

It is, without question, morally wrong for a newspaper to print an article by a chap who did not write that article.



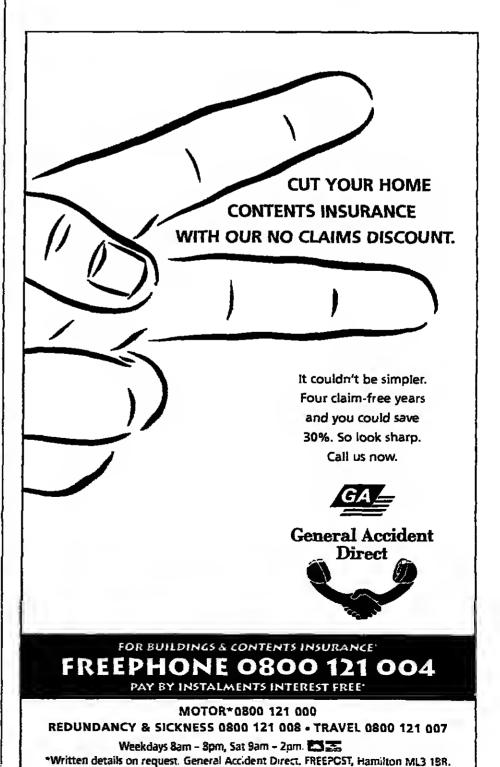
given the Sun a strict moral choice to make. Either apologise for putting Mr Tate's name at the top of the article - or pay Mr Tate a fee for having purportedly written it.

## A lesson for

That, at least, is a more peacefal moral code than that which held sway in the boyhood of the former education minister Sir Rhodes Boyson. At the weekend he nostalgically recalled his father's reaction to young Rhodes failing his 11-plus because he skived off an exam in watch Blackburn Rovers: "He hit me for the first time, literally knocking me out, and for the first time in my life edncation became very important."

**Eagle Eye** 





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## How scared do we need to get?

When people get scared they take notice: that is what is happening with Britain's creaking system for caring for the mentally ill.

A string of killings by psychiatric patients has pushed the Government into action. In the past couple of years hundreds of mentally ill people have been taken out of the prison system and off the streets and put into the NHS. Orders have been issued from on high in the Department of Health that doctors should only discharge psychiatric patients into well managed community care schemes. More hospital beds, though prohably too few, are promised for the

long-term ill.
Yet these measures hardly match the grum picture painted by vesterday's report from the Royal College of Psychiatrists on homicides and suicides by the mentally ill. It describes overcrowded hospitals, where the ill are forced out to make way for the even more seriously disturbed. Psychiatrists are quitting the NHS because they have become so concerned at the state of the system. Community care is often little more than decrepit bedsits where the mentally ill eke out isolated lives, out of touch with health and social services until their condition deteriorates to a point where they have to be readmitted.

In short, the system is in a mess. Better management of the £2bn a year we already spend on caring for the mentally ill would help. If, however, we are serious about tackling the mental healthcare crisis, the financial consequences must be accepted.

Extra resources the system needs should be focused on two areas. First, there are two few institutions - hospitals, secure units, nursing homes - offering places for the long-term sick. Many of these patients have come out of the prison system or were homeless and need ong-term, medically supervised, sometimes secure, accommodation, which is in chronically short supply. Such accommo-dation can be provided by both the pub-

lic and the private sector.

Second, we need an improved infrastructure to support mentally ill people in the community so that they do not turn to hospitals as their first port of call. Community services often shut down from 5pm to 9am on weekdays and for the entire weekend. Local "crisis houses" with 24hour nursing care and social support are needed. A small army of carers is required to support people at home.

None of these policies is controversial. Together, they would take the strain off hospital psychiatric wards, which are fast turning into dangerous bedlams for the insane. But at present all this is just a

The reason is that mental health cannot compete politically with demands for shorter waiting lists. This week's report on psychiatric patients will worry those fearful of being murdered; it will arouse anger about neglect of the suicidal and vulnerable. But it will not produce the same results as last week's row about people waiting hours for treatment at casualty departments because there are too few beds and junior doctors.

Politicians know where most votes are lost and won. They invest accordingly, What's missing is serious leadership prepared to make the public realise that better mental health care means less of something else. So far, no political party has been brave enough to spell out the choices. With the misery of neglect so evident, it is time to face that challenge

## Political life with added seasoning

Move over Delia. German chancel-lors can write cookery books too. Helmut Kohi's new book, A Culinary Journey Through Germany's Regions, will soon be jostling with Jocelyn Dimhleby, Elizabeth David and others for space on the shelves of bookshops, if not the most kitchens. Astute Rhinelander that he is, Chancellor Kohl has spotted a gap in the European market. While the cosmopolitan middle classes may be lapping up bruschetta and sun-dried tomatoes from Italy or tapas and paella from Spain, pig's stomach and rye bread from Germany have not yet taken off. But their time will come, if the 18-stone Kohl has his way. A Helmut Kohl's Winter Collection is surely only just

round the corner. More remarkable than a German enthusing for fine food is a politician revealing a hinterland, as Denis Healey used to describe his outside interests. What a relief it is to find a politician with a passion beyond politics, the semblance of a normal life, an ability to enjoy plea-sures. Sadly there is little sign of a British

equivalent in the House of Commons, Politics in Britain has become a grimly earnest world inhabited only by the determined professional. With little lighthearted let-up to the machinations of govemment or the frustrated speeches of opposition. Westminster is not a place for the frivolous. True, John Major has a rarely indulged passion for cricket. And Tony Blair enjoys spending time with his family. But these are hardly signs of diverse and interesting personalines. And

at Buckingham Palace. The club was

strictly all-male, but that does not

mean there were not women at these

the sober faces of Jack Straw and John Redwood never reveal a glimmer of genuine enthusiasm for ordinary recreational

Where are the Healeys and Heaths of the current generation? After electoral defeat in 1974, Ted Heath published books on sailing and music and travel including Sailing: A Course in My Life and Travels: People and Places in My Life. Meanwhile, Denis Healey's autobiography is dripping with references to art, music and literature. Admittedly both men have chosen rather egocentric ways to sell their enthusiasms. But with both there is a sense that politics is the foremost but not the only important force in their lives. With the modern crop of politicians it seems that their characters and interests are moulded to suit their rise up the career ladder, the demands of public appearance, and political niceties.

Top politicians with the potential to write a best-seller seem mainly to be abroad. Bill and Hillary Clinton may yet enrich our reading with Rural Property Investments: A Beginner's Guide. But here in Britain the prospects are not bright. The best we might hope from Tony Blair is a short memoir of his days as an aspirant rock star, and Lady Thatcher could pen a do-it-yourself guide to growing old gracefully. As for John Major... Well it isn't clear what Mr Major could convincingly demonstrate an interest in. Motorway maps of Great Britain - with cones and Happy Eaters clearly marked.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### The stakeholder society: Blarkism and sustainable development | Blood service

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP Sir: Your editorial about the stakeholder society ("Blair and Clarke: are they by chance related?", 13 January) perversely misses the point. Of course it's not about privatising the welfare state, any more than it's about any other of the stale mantras to which rightwing commentators have spent the

last week trying to appropriate it. It's about having an inclusive society, not one where millions are shut out by the deepest divisions British society has suffered since the Thirties. It's about a participating citizenry, not one where people are merely passive ciphers of power always located beyond them. It's about balancing competitiveness with co-operative relationships, since social and economic partnerships can often produce the best results rather than unrestrained competition. And it's about reciprocal rights and responsibilities, since the more committed the stakeholder in his contribution to the eneral enterprise, the higger his ultimate reward.

excluded than at any time in living memory. With unemployment only once below 2 million in the past 15 years, a growing pool of long-term unemployed, including many school-leavers, feel a sense of hopelessness,

Nor is the stakeholder society the enemy of economic success in the marketplace. Unremitting aggressive individualism in the past 15 years hasn't prevented Britain slipping from 13th to 18th place in the international com-petitiveness league, Indeed, some of the most successful market economies of the past 30 years such as Japan, Germany and Singapore have adopted a strong, operative stakeholder model which has been a major component of their competitive edge. Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL MEACHER MP for Oldham West (Lab) House of Commons London SW1 14 January The writer is Shadow Secretary of Shrewsbury. Shropshire

society" is so similar to Margaret Thatcher's "enterprise culture". He clearly visualises the econ-

omy as a lough self-seeking arena in the same way that Mrs Thatcher did. The only difference is that she believed in the Adam Smith version of events, in which self-seeking contributes to the common good, and needs little or no direction. Tony Blair visualises the same process as the best way to create wealth, but he believes in adjusting it so that "no group or class is set apart or excluded". Both philosophies see business as a purely compentive, self-seeking exercise.
Other cultures have no diffi-

culty in seeing business and the economy as a co-operative venture, to which people contribute in order to meet their varying needs. It seems to be a peculiarly British idea that selfishness is the whole basis of our lives. Yours sincerely. HENRY CURTELS

The stakeholder concept is surely an idea whose time has come when more people feel that Tony Blair's "stakeholder and Clarke: are they by chance

not believe in a God who is more

unpleasant than I am. If I do not

will the damnation of any soul,

not even that of Adolf Hitler, then the notion of some sort of

everlasting holocaust is so at

variance with what I know of

myself, as to render it wholly

unbelievable of the God who

said: "Fear not, I am the first and

the last". 1 recall a piece of "grave

humour" which summed it up

Have mercy on my soul, Lord

As I would, were I Lord God,

And you were Martin Elginbrod.

Why will people make God nastier than themselves?

along the following lines:

Yours sincerety.

CARY DOSRIE

Chaplain

Here lies Martin Elginbrod,

related?", you analyse in some detail which of two approaches, "Blarkism" or "shrinking the state/creating an anti-European Little Englander" is likely to best achieve a given objective - our survival in today's global, comperitive economy. Surely, though, you have grossly oversimplified

the objective. If we do not recognise the need for "sustainable development" in accordance with the decisions at Rio in 1992, is it not possible that the avid pursuit of global competitiveness in economic terms could lead to terminal decline. For me, the inclusion in the

long-term economic objective of this country of the need for the worldwide achievement of sustainable development helps me in assessing the likely efficacy of the two approaches. I prefecto go for a stake in a country that endeavours to give a world lead towards universal survival in order to try to ensure that we all have a future. We need an approach that encompasses a world vision not a "Little Englander" one. Yours faithfully,

COLIN DEWSNAP

Keith Joseph's

From Mr Richard P. Welch

years of her premiership.

Christchurch, Dorset

legacy to Thatcher

Sir: Baroness Thatcher has just

given us all the benefit of her wis-

dom in the Keith Joseph Memo-

rial Lecture, as if we hadn't had

cnough of this during the 11

It is worth remembering that

Lord Joseph's radical thinking led

to a lot of wrong decisions. He

was involved in housing (he built

tower blocks); he was involved in

the health service (he put all the

best nurses behind desks); he was

involved in education (he managed to alienate the entire teach-

ing profession, losing all goodwill

and ensuring the long-term aban-donment of weekend sporting

activities in nearly all state

However, in later years Lord

Joseph did have the grace to

admit from time to time that he

had got some things wrong. What a pity that Lady Thatcher did not

feel the need to follow her men-

Sir: Two sentences in Baroness

Thatcher's Keith Joseph Memo-

rial lecture reveal the self-delusion

at the heart of Euroscepticism.

She referred to the European Court as "undermining our judi-

cial system". It is not undermin-

ing it. It is part of it and it was a

Conservative government of

which Lady Thatcher was a mem-

ber that made it so.

She also spoke of curbing the powers of the courts by an amend-

ment of the European Commu-

nities Act. While we remain a

member of the European Union,

Parliament does not have the

necessary authority. The powers of the court are derived from the

treaty, which can be amended

only by the unanimous agree-

It would, of course, be possible

to remove the authority of the

court completely by repealing the act and leaving the union, but

I doubt if any businessmen in the

audience would have been happy

to hear her suggest that.

Yours faithfully

Bookham, Surrey

JOHN DAVIES

ment of the members.

schools). A sorry record.

tor's example.

12 January

Yours faithfully, RICHARD P. WELCH

From Mr John Davies

Nantglyn, Clwyd

## to be proud of

From Dr E. Angela E. Robinson Sir. I write to dispel the myths about the blood service given credence by Louise Jury in her articles "Death by a thousand cuts"
(11 January) and "Hospitals
rationed as blood stocks hit new low" (11 January). Yes, the blood service is going through a period of change, but, beyond the gut feeling that "we don't like it", no clinical concerns about patient safety remain unresolved, par-ticularly with medical colleagues.

The suggestion that donors are "quitting in disgust" is simply. untrue. More donations were collected in 1995 than ever before in the history of the blood service. Donations exceeded 200,000 per month on five occasions in that year, something never before achieved. It is apparent that our volunteer donors are more than willing to help the record num-

ber of patients being treated. ... Blood stocks are currently low; his is not unusual for th of year, but again through the generosity of our donors we are managing to meet hospital need. In December 1995, on average more donors were bled each day . (9,200) than in any previous. December. So far this month

collection averages 9,960 per day. We have a blood service to be proud of. It is becoming better through the responsible national co-ordination which the National Blood Authority has achieved. Yours faithfully,

ANGELA ROBINSON Medical Director National Blood Authority Watford, Hertfordshire 11 January

#### A deal for Delia

From Ms Dolores O'Donoghue Sir: Delia Smith recipes are not only "lying all around the place" (Miles Kington: "Fancy a little Delia rechanffée?", Il January), they are also invading The

Phil Archer (who, to the best of my knowledge, has never even made a cup of coffee) has suddenly taken up cookery and has been enthosiastically discussing Delia Smith recipes with Nelson Gabriel Poor old Uncle Tom has flown Brookfield in search of plain food.

Archers addicts are being "fed" recipes on a nightly basis. Phil has even toddled into the village shop to buy English pudding rice - telling Betty how it can be substituted for paella rice (as per Winter Collection).

This couldn't have anything to do with plugging the BBC Delia Smith Winter Collection books could it?

Sincerely, DOLORES O'DONOGHUE Morden, Surrey

I2 January

#### Pioneer Goon

From Mr Colin Berkeley

Sir Eagle Eye believes that the expression "royalty of no fixed abode" "belongs" to Tony Banks MP (Diary, 11 January). Not so: this apt phrase was raised some time in the late 1950s by one William "Mate" Cobblers, when he informed Ned Seagoon that he could not sleep on a particular park bench as it was "reserved for royalty of no fixed abode" "Dishonoured". Goon Show).

As so often, Spike Milligan was there first. Yours faithfully. COLIN BERKELEY

#### From Mr Nicolas Walter Sir: You point out some of the problems which the Church of

A hell of a question for the church

England has with the doctrine of Hell ("The Church's empty Hell". 11 January), but you leave out the most serious one.

All the doctrines of Christianity must in the end rest on the teachings of its founder, Jesus, as expressed in its scriptures, the New Testament; and it is clear that these include a belief in a literal and physical Hell, described as "unquenchable fire", "a furnace of fire" in which "there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth", "a lake of fire burning with brimstone" where sinners and unbelievers are tormented with flame "day and night for ever and ever".

When the Doctrine Commission of the Church of England

says that these are "appalling theologies which divide God into a sadistic monster and left searing psychological scars on many, it is only echoing what freethinkers have been saying for several centuries. And when it tries to make sense of Hell as some kind of metaphorical or spiritual annihilation, it is simply making nonsense of Christianity as it has been for nearly 2,000 years.

Yours faithfully. NICOLAS WALTER Rationalist Press Association London, N1

has always been the belief that the hest clue to the nature of God lies in my own.

From Fr Cary Dobbie Sir. My starting point in theology

Put simply, I cannot and will

#### Christ's Hospital Horsham, West Sussex 13 January

From Mrs Joyce Unwins Sir. While agreeing with David Bellamy's views on world population, I was concerned to note errors in his article on China today ("Is China really so bad?", 12 January). The fall in world grain output is mostly attributable to the disastrous agricultural situation in most of the countries in the former Soviet Union and central Europe rather than "everrising levels of fertiliser application". In fact, world fertiliser

Furthermore, although China grain Output for feedstock.

London, N8 12 January

independent.co.uk! Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

#### Fertiliser facts

consumption has dropped dramatically since 1990.

is a large user of organic fertilis-ers, it is also the world's largest consumer of mineral (or chemical) fertilisers. That China can feed itself is mainly due to the low per capita consumption of meat: increasing prosperity among the Chinese population means that demand for meat will rise, necessitating substantial increases in Yours faithfully, JOYCE UNWINS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@

Innocent days at the Thursday Club T think I am probably one of the las their own right, he said. "The Duchess of Northumberland, the surviving members of the old Thursday Club, the gang of cronies that the Duke of Edinburgh used to gather round him in the 1950s to have a hit of fun away from his serious life Percy, the Lady Devonshire .. These are their titles?" I said.

gatherings. After all, as Arthur Koestier once said to me, "The extraordinary thing about men at all-male On an average night of the Thursgatherings is that they talk about day Club there would be 10 or 15 women non-stop, whereas at mixed functions the men talk only about members present. There would be Lord Louis Mountbatten, Arthur Koestler, Prince Philip, Cecil Beaton, and little Larry Adler playing his mouth organ in the corner, and maybe male hobbies such as sport, politics and cars - never about women, even though there are many women one or other of the Kray brothers. There would also be the ladies, whose A clever man, Koestler. I would not names I remember as Flo, Loulou,

like to give the impression, by the way, Beryl, Gertie, Simone, Pat and one or that Arthur Koestler was present at two others. To begin with, I puzzled these little get-togethers. He was preover their presence there. sent, very often, but I would not like You men are all distinguished to give that impression, as he often neople," I remember saying to Lord asked me never to reveal that he had Louis Mountbatten. "You are all discome there. "My dear boy," he used tinguished in action, or thought, or to say, "I have been to gatherings like this in Central Europe before the war, culture, or in heredity. But these gatherings of princes and showgirls and intellectuals, and always the same

"Don't knock these girls," said thing happened on the occasions." Lord Louis. "I had no intention," I said stiffly. "What was that?" I said.
"The Nozis invaded," he said, with But he was not listening to me.

These girk are all great ladies in

"No," he said. "They are the pubs they work at." There was a chorus of coarse laughter from the gathered throng, hut to my amazement Lord Louis Mount-

batten burst into tears and started cradling his head on his arm. "Nobody understands me," he said. "Nobody loves me any more. Especially in India."
"Oh. knock it off, Louis!" Philip

would say. "Ok, so you slaughtered a couple of million Indians during Partition. OK, so you made a mistake. But don't let it get you down! Don't spoil the party! And no pictures please,

This to Cecil Beaton, who had aiready got his little Brownie out. "If you don't want photos, wby do you ask me here?" said Cecil, looking aggrieved.

We shall have photos when we are ready for the group photo," said Philip. "It is very important that these occasions should look innocent when the time comes."

When what time comes?" I asked. "When they write my life story,"

There was an explosion of laughter

"Who on earth would want to write your life story?" said old John Betjeman, who dropped in to the Thursday Cluh occasionally. "You are no more interesting than a public statue. You have done nothing except marry the Queen. That is all you have done."

"It will be enough, one day," sighed Philip. "One day in the future biographers will peer into the Royal Family's history looking for dirt. They will say, did Prince Philip ever have a wild life? Are there dark secrets? And they will discover the existence of the Thursday Club!

"But nothing exciting ever happens at the Thursday Club!" said Flo, pouting. "Nobody ever gcts out of linel It is all as safe as houses. We have a drink and we put a Joe Loss record on, but it is all as boring as

"That is the whole point," said Philip. "They will say that, and they will be right and they will not investigate further. This will be a cover-up for ... He looked at his watch. "I must be going now. I have a ... meeting, But anyone rings tell them I am here."

With that he was gone. I often wondered where he was off 10. Back to the Palace, I expect.

## For a mediocre wage you get a dim MP

Our parliamentarians are scared to press their case for higher salaries too loudly. But it has merit

Members of Parliament are like the rest of us. They want to be paid hypocrisy. There are also three bettermore. According to new research, 85 per cent of them want an increase in their £34,085. Unlike the rest of us, they can vote themselves any increase they want. But they don't because they are frightened of the rest of us.

And rightly so. Their paymasters are not impressed. People regard MPs as lazy, third-rate hores, as riddled with rot as a row of Stilton cheeses. MPs are unhappily aware of this, and rarely even mention the subject. They think the wbole matter must be shoved off to an independent commission, the essential institutional camouflage behind which Hon-ourable Members could hide when explaining any future pay increase to

Above all, they are scared of the newspapers, of headlines about Members, snouts and troughs. And there is huge hypocrisy here. Many of the media people who would lead the cbarge, the editors, pundits, correspondents and TV anchorfolk are paid vastly more than backbench MPs,

and more, too, than cabinet ministers. We, the new guardians of public morality, believe we are worth more that people who have merely heen elected by tens of thousands. We have successfully argued that MPs should disclose some of their earnings, and cease taking other payments - as we wouldn't dream of doing. And we believe that they should he subject to close personal scrutiny of a kind that

would have most of us squirming. Something is wrong. But in making the unpopular case, and supporting higher salaries for parliamentarians, it

known arguments to be demolished the market case against better-paid MPs, the political case and the moral

The market argument requires one to compare the Commons to any other husiness. It is declining. In terms of power, it is tosing market share to other institutions, both public and powers. It is being authority stare to other institutions, both public and private. It is losing authority, including to the press pulpits and BBC hishoprics. If this were another husiness, MPs would be being laid off, or at the very least having their pay cut; indeed, if this were any other business, MPs would be leading the chorus of unsentimental approval.

chorus of unsentimental approval. This is a satisfying analogy for the pub, the populist political equivalent of alcoholic lemonade. But we can dismiss it pretty quickly. As the prime democratic institution, Parliament stands for a system of values which go well heyond any market - and, indeed, are needed to harness, civilise and perpetuate successful markets.

If a company or even an industry loses market share and eventually collapses, it may be sad but it isn't a national disaster. If the democracy finally lost its authority or relevance and subsided, it would be a disaster. I cocclude that if one could demonstrate that higher salaries for MPs would strengthen the Commons, then it would be a powerful reason for supporting them.

The political case against higher salaries is different. It is that Parliament should be a mirror of the nation. The nation isn't highly-paid, Any



People regard MPs as lazy, third-rate bores, as riddled with rot as a row of Stilton cheeses

would, therefore, make the Commons less representative and would therefore be a bad thing.

This is a trickier one. When oiltraders, Queen's Counsel, best-selling authors, company directors, neuro-surgeons and similar riff-raff say with one voice that they proudly support our ancient institutions and then imply that they will not serve in them for less than, say, £70,000 a year, it is difficult

But Parliament should be a beacon. not a mirror. If it is to matter, its Memhers oeed to be among the hrightest and best in the country, the most articulate and far-seeing people available. Salary may not be the most important factor in attracting brighl people, but

it isn't negligible either. There was an MP a few years back who used to admit, with some pride, increase in parliamentary salaries that he was not very bright - but would

then pause and lean forward smilingly to point out that there were a lot of dim people in the country and they deserved their say too. Well, no doubt; but they should get it on daytime television, not in the House of Commons.

Finally, there is the moral case, which is simple and popular. It is that public service is a high calling, a mat-ter of duty which should not be polluted by mercenary considerations.

This, as it happens, was the main argument against paying MPs origi-nally, and featured heavily in the debate in August 1911, when Lloyd George, as Chancellor, carried a resolution for every MP, except ministers, to be paid £400 a year. (Using a multiplier of 40, that is roughly equivalent to £16,000 today – thin fare. It was said to be "just the salary of a junior clerk in the Civil Service", which I guess is still about true.

Some things said on that long summer night 85 years ago read strangely today. Paying MPs, said one, would fill the House with salaried agitators. Ramsay MacDonald, on the other hand, hoped it would make the Com-mons as public-spirited as the German Reichstag. But most of the arguments read freshly. Lloyd George argued that being an MP was becoming a full-time joh and that salaries were needed to bring in "men of wide culture, of high intelligence and of

earnest purpose".

The great difference was that he meant the poor. In 1911 paying MPs was a left-wing cause: throughout the previous century, radicals bad seen it as essential to end the exclusion of

disguised argument for keeping them out. Today, by contrast, the salaries question is more a right-wing cause.

The "morat case" against higher salaries now is not a way of excluding the poor, but of keeping out the right and the poor, but of keeping out the right and the poor, but of keeping out the right and the poor against the relationship. rich - or, to be more precise, the relatively affluent professionals who now shun politics as involving too much intrusion and risk for too little reward. While public service motivates many people, it cannot be an absolute answer. Parliament isn't a monastic order of contemplatives, but a place which aspires to be at the busy centre of worldly affairs; it needs worldly, experienced people.

Money matters to them and since matters to most of the rest of us, we are in no position to sneer. Most politicians are not corrupt. Nor are they poor. But they tend to live professionally short, high-stress lives during which those with large families or commitments often scrabble rather pathetically for low-grade consultancies and milk their travel allowances

to pay the monthly bills.

It shouldn't be like this. Unless we want to see their quality decline, our MPs should not be generally less well-off than senior civil servants, middle-ranking professionals – doctors, beginning beginning to the control of the contro lawyers, business executives - and, yes, the journalists who criticise them.

Our elected representatives matter; and they should be able to concentrate on their parliamentary work, without being desperate for outside earners or government office to bring them the rewards of successful middle-class life, I would rather look up to a wellhright middle-class and working-class paid, successful politician than save a politicians. The "moral case" was a few quid and look down on a dud.

## This song will fall on deaf ears

It will take more than a pop campaign to win over a generation of disaffected voters, warns Sheryl Garratt

Election time is drawing near. and so it's time once more for a token stab at mobilising the elusive youth vote. This time the initiative is called Rock the Vote, after the successful 1992 US campaign that featured REM, Pearl Jam and Madonna and led to a significant rise in the numbers of young Americans choosing to exercise their vote in the presidential election.

In Britain, where more people queued for National Lottery tickets in the week of the £42m prize than voted in the last election, any initiative should be welcomed. But Rock the Vote has an air of dreary predictability that leaves you wondering whether its £1m budget could be better spent elsewhere. There will be a series of eveous leading to a televised, Live Aid-style concert, and possibly a record. There will be ads featuring leading pop stars (although only Blur's Damon Albarn has been named). There will be stickers on CDs and cassettes in shops and a campaign to target young clubbers by Ministry of Sound.

the London "superclub".

It was Albarn himself who recently complained that it was impossible to preach from the stage any more. Exhorting his audience to use condoms at a recent show, he was barracked with cries of "Shut up, old mao!" More media-literate than any generation before them, the young know how to decode an ad, to read between the lines, and they can see a ser-

mon coming a mile away. The generation being targeted by Rock the Vote pledged their pocket money to Live Aid, probably the biggest mohilisation of the rock industry ever, and learnt that despite the best intentions, a bunch of pop stars could not end famine or even make a significant dent in the misery.

Music has lost its potency to affect change: the most it can ever hope to do is raise funds or make ao issue or an attitude fashionable: in the Seventies, Rock against Racism helped end a worrying trend among young punks to play with Nazi imagery, as well as solemnising the wedding between reggae rhythms and rock thrash; in the Eighties, the Specials single are still not taken seriously a the name of the man who is now president of South Africa into the pop charts and into hearts and minds with the help of a catchy chorus. Benefit concerts, records and club nights have helped raise huge amounts for causes as diverse as Greenpeace and Aids charities. But any attempts to tie pop

more closely to party politics is doomed to failure. Remember Neil Kinnock mugging that sad Tracey Ullman video? The Eighties Red Wedge campaign in which left-leaning pop per-formers such as Paul Weller and Billy Bragg awkwardly shared a stage with Labour MPs in order to mobilise the youth vote is something that most remember with regret and embarrassment. The truth is, we do not want our political leaders to be hip. We

want them to be effective. Contrary to popular belief. this generation is not apathetic. Every survey shows them to b. more liberal than their parents on race, gender and sexuality. and more likely to be concerned about the environmen: and personal freedom. The also know that marching along carrying placards achieves noth-ing, that many of the old forms of protest are dead, Activists

#### The truth is, we do not want our political leaders to be hip

tend to get involved in local, single-issue campaigns such as the anti-roads or free party movemeot. But few of the issues the care about are ever addressed by parliamentary politicians.

It is telling that Rock the Vote comes not from the young themselves but from the music industry. The campaign is chaired by John Preston, chairman of the mighty BMG record cooglomerate, a close friend of Tony Blair and chairman or the music business's main mouthpiece, the British Phonegraphic Industry.

In Britain, the price of CDs is higher than in almost any other country - a fact that has alread; attracted the attention of the Monopolies Commission, and .. state of uffairs the BPI has carrpaigned vigorously to continue Meanwhile, "superclubs" righti feel aggrieved that, despit. showing the kind of entrepreneurship that Mrs Thatche: always asked of the young, the "Free Nelson Mandela" put businesses and find that then relationship with their authorties is still largely adversaria! The young do not vote becaus. they feel they have nothing to gain by it. But by supporting Rock the Vote, the music indutry has something to gain.

> The writer is former editor  $\epsilon$ 'The Face' magazine.

## Bloody drama, tragic results

Every resurgence of Chechen conflict is bad for both Yeltsin and Russia's liberals, says Tony Barber

There was a terrible predictability about the bloody drama that unfolded yesterday in the northern Caucasus. It began with violence, in the shape of the seizure last Tuesday of several thousand hostages by armed Chechen rebels. Now it has reached a ferocious climax, with Russian helicopter gunships firing missiles, and artillers units bombarding an obscure Dagestani village where the rebels and their remaining 100 hostages were holed up.

This village rejoices to the Soviet-era name of Pervomayskoye, or "First of May", the day celebrated by the for-mer Communist authorities in the name of solidarity with the interna

#### There is no sign that the Russian army has broken the spirit of Chechen resistance

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tional proletariat. Yesterday's grim events suggest that Pervomayskoye will earn its place in history not as a symbol of the dignity of labour, but as a site where Russia's 200-year-long struggle to impose its rule on the Caucasus took one more horrific turn for

It may be argued that President Boris Yeltsin had little choice but to use maximum force against a band of guerrillas whose seizure of innocent civilians as hostages deprived their case of all moral justification. However, the fundamental explanation for the deaths in Pervomayskove lies in Mr Yeltsin's fatally misjudged decisioo to send his army and security forces into Chechnya in December 1994.

It is painful to recall that only four months before he took that decision, Mr Yeltsin made the following observations: "Forceful intervention in Chechnya is unacceptable. We in Russia have succeeded in avoiding interethnic clashes only because we have refrained from forceful measures. If we violate this principle in regard to Chechnya, the Caucasus will rise up. There will be so much terror and hlood that afterwards no ooe will forgive us.

Precisely so. According to Vladimir Rubanov, the deputy secretary of Mr Yeltsin's Security Council, which has co-ordinated operations in Chechnva, 20,000 to 30,000 people have been killed in the last 13 months. At least 2,000 Russian servicemen have died, a casualty rate which indicates that the



A Chechen woman whose son is among the hostages is comforted by friends

conflict in Chechnya is costing Russia as much blood as the 1979-89 war in Afghanistan.

Yet in all this time Mr Yeltsin's forces have failed to capture either the Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudavev, or any of his senior field commanders. One of these commanders, Aslan Maskhadov, performed the extraordinary feat last month of occupying Chechnya's second-biggest city, Gudermes, with hundreds of fighters and staying there for a week.

There is not the slightest sign that the might of the Russian army has bro-ken the spirit of Chechen resistance or the will for independence. There is rather stronger evidence that many ordinary Russian soldiers serving in the Caucasus are thoroughly demoralised, to the point where they even engage in hlack-market arms deals

with their nominal enemies. Russia's authorities portray Mr

has inflicted untold harm on ordinary Chechens. However, as an explanation for Mr Dudayev's undoubted success in mobilising opposition to Russian rule, this clearly leaves something to

The Chechen leader derives his political strength partly from his elec-tion as president of the republic in 1991, but also from the resilient structure of Islamic society in Chechnya. A dense network of Sufi hrotherhoods, impenetrable to Russian influence, blends neatly with the traditional clan system and brings together Chechens

of all social categories.

The majority of these brotherhoods, though not necessarily active in politics before the Russian crackdown, have given Mr Dudayev their unqualified support since the armed forces stormed into Chechnya in December 1994. Russian attempts to install a pro-Moscow loyalist in Mr Dudayev's place Dudayev as the illegitimate head of a have been greeted with total concorrupt, mafia-dominated regime that tempt from the Chechen population.

Mr Yeltsin, only recently recove Moscow, it has turn corrupt, mafia-dominated regime that tempt from the Chechen population.

All of which suggests that Mr Yeltsin would do well to negotiate a swift end to the war, recognising that the alternative is long-term violence and instability across much of Russia's southern flank. If a lesson can be drawn from the dramatic events of Chechnya's history, such as Stalin's deportation of the entire nation in 1944 and the closure of all mosques between 1943 and 1978, it is that nothing sharpens the Chechen hunger for self-determination more than systematic oppression from Moscow.

Whether Russia's political circumstances will allow Mr Yeltsin to swallow his pride and do a deal with Mr Dudayev is, however, another matter. This is a presidential election year in Russia, and conventional wisdom has it that no candidate, least of all the incumbent president, can afford to look weak on Chechnya ahead of the June ballot.

Mr Yeltsin, only recently recov-

The Communists, victors in last month's parliamentary elections, are no friends to the cause of Chechen independence, and if they had been in power in 1994, they would almost certainly have approached the problem little differently from Mr Yeltsin. However, the war is a golden oppor-Reformers have been

a year, may choose not to run for re-election but, if he does throw his hat into the ring, the Chechen crisis him surely be a negative factor for him. What he planned as the brisk, efficient

suppression of a separatist rebellion has turned into a humiliating night-mare, and all his opponents next June will argue that they could have handled matters better.

squeezed out of office and turned into marginal players

tunity for them to question Mr Yeltsin's competence and turn voters against him.

For Russia's liberal reformers, the war has been little short of a catastrophe, as it has transformed Mr Yeltsin, their erstwhile champion, mto a president almost completely reliant on conservative political forces. Recent personnel changes in his government and presidential staff have tilted the balance still more against the liberals.

Only vesterday he appointed as the chief of his personal administration a hardliner named Nikolai Yegorov, famous mostly for his disastrous command of military operations at the start of the Chechen war. Of the few remaining moderates in the Kremlin, three have resigned in the last two weeks - Andrei Kozyrev as foreign minister, Sergei Shakhrai as a deputy prime minister, and Sergei Filatov, who made way for Mr Yegorov on the presidential staff.

Slowly but surely, the Chechen crisis has squeezed reformers out of office and turned them into marginal actors on Russia's political stage. The political initiative lies with Mr Yeltsin and the army and security lobby on the one hand, and with the resurgent

Communist opposition on the other. Mr Yeltsin remarked last October that the Chechen war was the bigges disappointment of his presidency. It is more than that. By helping to suffo-cate the forces of political liberty in Moscow, it has turned into a national

expertise, others are more concerned

with parting travellers from their cash

than steering them away from trouble. It is sad that this should happen in

Thailand, one of the safest places on

the backpackers' trade routes. The

## new left review 214

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#### ANOTHER VIEW Magenta Devine Why one death should not put us off travelling

ike almost any woman travelling Lalone, Johanne Masheder, tragically murdered while backpacking in Thailand, would have been aware what can happen to the unaccompanied on the road. Stories of misadventure abroad receive such massive media coverage that it is unlikely to have escaped any woman's attention that she may attract the unwanted attentions of evil-doers whenever and wherever she wanders abroad.

Unfortunately, rather than using these tragedies to put across information on safe travel, the tabloids spill out more senophobia, attached to a subtext blaming the narvety of the victims.

"Why Do Young Girls Risk Their Lives On the Back Pack Trail?" screamed the Mail, blaming travel agents and programmes like my own Rough Guide for implying that "travel to the furthermost reaches of the world were as sanitised and secure as a walking holiday of the Lakes". Well I'm sure Celine Figard's family are now all too aware just how safe a woman traveller in Britain can be.

The tabloids love to give the impression that being alone, abroad and female is tantamount to committing suicide - that you'll be lucky to get back to the "safety" of British soil with body and backpack intact - 10

make it home at all, in fact. The truth deny themselves the excitement of While some arc keen to share their is completely the opposite: a woman has to be very unlucky to encounter anything more dangerous than a bout of diarrhoes and the odd unwelcome advance from a hopeful male.

In this era of cheap mass transit the experience of travelling to exotic locations has been democratised and millions of women are grabbing these new opportunities and challenging the idea that it's a man's world. In the process they're broadening their horizons and enriching their lives. It's reactionary in the extreme to suggest that because of what's happened to the unfortunate few, the many should

encounters with other cultures. It seems obvious to say that if all the local women are covered from head to toe then sporting bare legs is like walking down Oxford Street topless. It's usually safer to take a companion. It's surely asking for trouble to go anywhere with a man you've never met before.

immune to danger. As ever, knowledge is power. It is crucial to read up on the place you're intending to visit. And we surely deserve better advice from travel agents.

Thais are rightly proud of their reputation for hospitality. That is unlikely Yet some travellers do seem to believe to assuage the grief of one family trythat strapping on a backpack puts ing to come to terms with their loss. them above local customs and mores, But the intrepid traveller should be shaken and not deterred by the tragedy that befell Johanne Masheder.

The writer is presenter of the BBC's Rough Guide series.

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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

## **Societies** move to shut out speculators

NIC CICUTTI

Britannia, the UK's sixth largest building society, dramatically halted the opening of any new instant access accounts yesterday in a bid to shut out "carpetbaggers" speculating on a possible flotation.

The society said its move was taken after the number of new accounts being opened in the past few days increased at least tenfold. In many cases, the rush to become Britannia members led to queues stretching out into the street.

John Heaps, chief executive at Britannia, said: "We have experienced a dramatic increase in the number of speculative accounts being opened. It is disrupting our business [and] the interests of our existing customers come first.

Meanwhile, Alliance & Lcicester, whose own announcement on demutualisation is believed to be imminent, vesterday closed its Keysaver Account to new investors in a further bid to deter speculators. It raised its minimum level on investment accounts to £5,000 in December.

Its Tessa account with a minimum investment of £1,000 is still available, but sources within the society suggested that fresh speculators might find a retrospective cut-off date has already been imposed.

These decisions are the latest twist in the increasingly frenzied demutualisation fever gripping building societies fol-lowing Woolwich's announcement last week that it is planning to become a bank.

Every big society, including Nationwide, Bristol & West, and Bradford & Bingley, said yesterday that they had been facing unprecedentedly high numbers of account openings in posits can be withdrawn again.

Speculators are hoping to uation under review."

handouts worth up to £1,000 following takeovers or demutualisations announced by several societies in the past year.

In the week before Woolwich's statement, about 40,000 people dashed to open new accounts at the society. However, they then discovered they would not benefit from the shares bonanza thanks to a back-dated cut-off date of December 31.

Since then, attention has switched to other societies thought likely either to convert to bank status or be taken over by another institution.

Multiple account openings have been rife despite a decision by most large societies to raise the minimum needed for membership, from £100 to £500, in August last year.

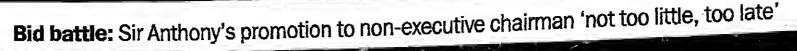
Although most remaining societies other than A&L and Nationwide are believed to be too small to seek bank status independently, some analysts said they could still merge with similar-sized partners and move to the market that way.

Others could face takeovers from several sources, including large banks, insurance companies, or BAT, the tobacco conglomerate that already owns two insurers, Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star.

Britannia said that in the two days after Woolwich's announcement it had been mundated by new customers. John Heaps said: "It is more important that our staff maintain bigh quality service for all our existing members than spend time opening these speculative accounts."

Bristol & West said that despite a large increase in new accounts being opened, it had no immediate plans to raise the £500 minimum needed to do so.

A Nationwide spokesman said despite making it clear that it was not about to demurecent days. The most popular tualise, there had been "signifare those where little or no no- icant" levels of new accounts tice need be given before de- opened in the past few days: "We are going to keep the sit-





Sitting pretty: Sir Rocco Forte (left) with Sir Anthony Tennant, appointed chairman following pressure from Forte sharholders Photograph: John Voos

## Forte splits top jobs to fend off Granada

**DAVID HELLIER** 

Forte, the hotels and restaurants group trying to fend off a £3.8bn hostile takeover bid from Granada, the television to leisure group, yesterday responded to shareholder pressure and agreed to separate its top two jobs in an attempt to retain its independence.

Forte announced that its deputy chairman, Sir Anthony Tennant, will be promoted to non-executive chairman from 1 February. Sir Rocco Forte, the current chairman and chief executive, will drop his chairman's role.

The move comes eight days before the bid time-table comes to a close and ends a three-year period during which Sir Rocco, son of the company's founder. Charles, held the posts of chair-

Sir Anthony rejected sugestions that the move was too little, too late. "We had not seen this as an issue until recently, but in the past few days our stockbrokers [Cazenove and UBS] said that it was and we have acted in response to what we understand a number of our shareholders wanted."

Some shareholders are believed to bave wanted a more extreme change, perhaps backed by the appointment of a new chief executive. But Sir Anthony said Sir Rocco had "tremendous experience" and a fine three-year record as chairman and chief executive. "To have taken him off from his position as chief executive would have been a positive

mistake," he said.

ing more than a titular change -Sir Anthony Tennant has been deputy chairman for the last three years and Sir Rocco has been chief executive for 13 years. Forte's performance during those 13 years speaks for itself."

Granada claimed that in the 13 years during which Sir Rocco had been chief executive. Forte's return for investors had been dramatically less than Granada's in the period since late 1991 when the current management team was installed. Granada says that over the five years prior to its takeover offer, Forse ranked 86th out of the FT-SE 100 while Granada ranked fifth.

Mark Finnie, an analyst following the bid for NatWest Se-

reshuffle, "This amounts to noth-funds" that hold Forte shares. Paris, and is an adviser to Mor-But it was not the move that some people wanted.

Mr Finnie thought the result of the takeover battle was still in the balance. "I think it will he very close, I don't think Forte would have made the moves if they did not think that they still had a chance of winning through, but I don't think they have too many aces left up their siceve." Sir Anthony Tennant who is 55, said he would take over the leadership of the company's board and be directly responsible for answering to shareholders. Sir Rocco will continue to manage the daily

operations of Forte's business. Sir Anthony's other commitments include a non-executive chairmanship at Christies, the

gan Stanley, the US investment house.

In a separate development Forte released a new document to shareholders aimed to set out the achievements of the management team at Forte and question's Granada's claim that it can make £100m of profit improvements from the business es it plans to retain.

In another development, Accor SA, the world's fourth-largest hotelier, denied speculation it had already agreed to pay Granada £1bn for the Meridien hotel chain if Granada's bid is successful.

Meanwhile, Whitbread was said to be visiting City institutions. There was speculation the group was gauging opinion for Gerry Robinson. Granada's curities said the management anction house. He is also a non- a possible lift in its £1.05bn of chief executive, was predictably move "probably wins a degree executive director of GRE, the fer for Forte's Happy Eater and dismissive of the management of support from certain of the Savoy and Banque Nationale de Little Chef restaurant chains.

## 690 jobs face axe at Arjo Wiggins

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Arjo Wiggins Appleton, one of Europe's biggest paper-making groups, vesterday announced 690 job cuts as it attempts to grapple with the torrid state of the paper market. The redundancies, amounting to 7 per cent of the group's European man-ufacturing workforce, form part of a previously announced programme to cut costs and

capacity.
The cash costs will amount to around £62m, the company said, higher than previous expectations, with the total impact on profits put at over £100m. Analysts put the final cost at between £120m and

Arjo has seen its shares slide from a high of 288p in July on the deteriorating prospects for paper after widespread destocking by customers as soaring prices flattened last year. culminating in a profit warning in November. But the shares bounced back 3p to 185p yes-terday as the latest news was welcomed by the stock market. Francesca Raleigh of the bro-

kers Panmure Gordon said news of the slightly higherthan-expected provisions makes you feel they may at last be getting a bit of a grip". Management was doing the right sort of things, she said, but warned that there had been a number of false dawns in the past. "The main question is whether, if they are on the verge of a cyclical downtum, this may only be enough to hold

Over half the job losses will be in Arjo's carbonless and thermal papers operations, which analysis believe may have lost up to £10m last year and bave been in decline for some. years as the market has moved away from duplicated forms and faxes which use thermal paper. The UK will suffer worst from the joh cuts, with 160 going in Lincoln and 80 in Cardiff. The Lincoln plant, involved in coating fax paper, is to be progressively closed over the next year or so, with capacity.

transferred to Cardiff. A further 235 jobs are to go in France, where Arjo is getting out of unprofitable commodity papers through the closure of a factory, which will cut capacity by 10 per cent. In Belgium. Arjo is cutting 180 jobs, with another 15 going in Germany, where Weissenstein, a lossmaking speciality papers divi-

sion, is to be divested. Cob Stenham, chairman, said the rationalisation programme. which is to be implemented progressively over the next 18months, was expected to produce a "major improvement" in

the business's profitability. The Arjo announcement came on the eve of today's Enropean Commission meeting, which is expected to clear the merger between big paper pro-ducers Kimberly-Clark and Scott Paper...

## C&W clashes with DTI on foreign appointees

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

The Government has blocked attempts by Cable & Wireless to change its articles to allow both its chairman and chief executive to be non-British. The Department of Trade and industry said that the decision - made possible by the golden share in C&W - was in the "national interest".

The clash was revealed as C&W gained shareholder approval to allow a foreigner to become chief executive as long as the chairman is British but faced anger over rumours of a multimillion-pound payout for the former chairman, Lord Young. The company said the DTI's stance on foreigners was "not a problem" but made it clear that it wanted the constraints completely removed. A spokesman for the

Department of Trade and In-

dustry said: "This is something which was in place when C&W was privatised and we want to keep it that way in the national interest. But we bave agreed to make a change from two to one." Brian Smith, chairman, told shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting that the com-



plans for new chief executive

pany expects to announce its new chief executive in about two months' time. The group was plunged into turmoil at the end of 1995 when James Ross and Lord Young, then respectively chief executive and chairman, were ousted after a boardroom row.

Mr Smith, who is non-executive and also chairs BAA, said later that he believed the closeness of Lord Young and Mr Ross led to the fracas. He said that his relationship with the new incumbent would be different. adding: "At BAA John Egan [chief executive] does all the ilar relationship will be estab-lished at Cable & Wireless." Mr Smith said the shortlist of

candidates had between six and eight names, including those of non-British citizens. The list is thought to include Duncan Lewis, who left C&W's Mercury Communications subsidiary in September after nine months. The group now expects

negotiations with Lord Young over a compensation package to be agreed by the end of the month. There has been speculation that Lord Young would demand a payoff of £1m or more. Mr Smith declined to comment but said that the outcome would be "amicable" and that "shareholders will not be appointed".

Mr Smith said he did not consider there was a case for reviewing the positions of non-executive board members on the grounds of failure to act sooner to prevent the boardroom split that led to the departure of Lord Young and Mr Ross. Rod Olsen, the acting chief executive, said little indication of the growing conflict between the two men had been evident prior to the escalation of events in the autumn.

## Options bonanza at Southern

Four directors of Southern Electric, the regional power company, yesterday made £415,000 paper profits on their share options, writes Mary tors are bound to fuel Labour Fagan, They included Henry Casley, chief executive, who made almost £195,000 on his 43,000 options.

Southern was the subject of £2.8bn bid from National Power, the nation's largest generator, until it was referred to

financial regulator's move to

water down rules for financial

advisers involved in the mis-

selling of personal pensions.

Mr Darling claimed the

Personal Investment Authority

had backed away from its ear-

lier policy in the face of pres-

sure from specialist insurers

who would otherwise bave been

where self-regulation of finan-cial services does not work, he

This is a prime example of

328 12.4 3 E

forced to font the bill.

writes Nic Cicutti.

It is one of the biggest and most profitable of the regional electricity companies and the new profits made by the direc-Party criticisms of the rewards £101,000. Jim Deane exercised given to utility company executives.

The gains emerged only days after National Grid announced changes to its directors' share options which could leave them substantially better off than the Monopolies and Mergers before the flotation of the company in December.

Labour joins attack on PIA

Labour's City spokesman, negotiate with a tied interest and the tab for any redress to trans-Alastair Darling, yesterday is not able to do it properly. fer victims, the PIA finally indicate the property is not able to do it properly.

"The insurance industry must realise that public confidence in

it will be further undermined by

such behaviour." Mr Darling

said he would raise the issue last

night in the House of Commons

His comments follow a deci-

sion by the financial regulator to amend the wording of letters to be sent to savers who may

have been wrongly advised to set

from up to 2,000 independent fi-nancial advisers and the refusal

After a nine-month boycott

up private pensions.

debate on the Finance Bill.

Forbes, who exercised more than 22,000 share options to make a profit of just over more than 13,000 options for a profit of £61,000 and Jim Harte just under 13,000 for a profit of All four sold some of their

shares to pay tax bills and each transferred a proportion of the remainder to his wife, while keeping the balance. Mr Casley,

fer victims, the PIA finally

agreed to delete any reference to compensation from the letters.

demned by the Consumers As-

sociation as potentially stopping

tens of thousands of people

from claiming a review of their

pensions. But the Treasury backed the PIA, claiming the decision would break the log-

jam and lead to an early review

of the most urgent cases.

One mutually owned indemnity insurer, LIBM, also sup-

ported the deal although it

argued that the matter should

have been resolved months ago.

Its cave-in has been con-

The second-biggest gainer in Southern Electric was John for example, soid 21,494 and transferred 10,000 shares to The decision to refer the hid

for Southern by National Power came as a blow to both companies, which had agreed the The MMC, which is expect-

ed to deliver its report to the Government by 22 March, is also investigating an agreed bid for Midlands Electricity by the rival generating company,

## Fresh job cuts due in finance

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

The pace of job cuts in the financial services sector is expected to accelerate following its sharpest fall for two years in the final quarter of 1995, according to the latest trends survey. Worst-hit by the cuts continue to be the high street banks and insurance companies, as they drive for efficiency gains in an increasingly competitive

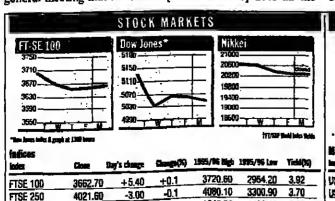
environment, said the CBI/ Coopers & Lybrand Financial Services Survey.
"Companies have responded positively to the strong pressure on their margins, by cutting operating costs through employ-ment reductions. These trends are set to conlinue, suggesting further scope for efficiency gains over the months ahead,"

Investment banks were extremely buoyant thanks to the takeover and stock market booms, and fund management is enjoying a good run, while banks and insurers continue to suffer from falling confidence.

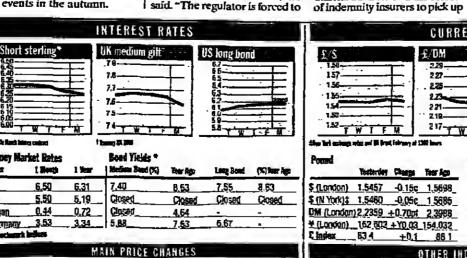
Improved business volumes and the downward trend in costs helped overall profitability to recover. Securities houses expect this to continue, and banks are looking forward to the largest increase, while general insurers are bracing themselves for a further sharp decline. Although the survey showed a rise in business volumes in the last quarter of 1995, the level of business continued to be regarded as well below normal. Domestic competition is now the most likely constraint on business prospects over the coming year, followed by the level of demand," the survey reported.

Average spreads narrowed at the sharpest rate yet recorded m the survey, indicating the competitive pressures. This trend is expected to continue. While investment banking

reports an increase in employment, the general trend remains one of investing in technology while reducing staff numbers. "Fierce competition is not going to disappear," said John Hayes, a semor member of Coopers & Lybrand's financial services consultancy practice. "There is a clear shift towards more technology in providing products and services. Investment in IT is expected to increase markedly over the coming year."



fadices lades	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1595/96 High	1995/96 Law	Yield(X
FTSE 100	3662.70	+5.40	+0.1	3720.60	2954.20	3.92
FTSE 250	4021.60	-3.00	-0.1	4080.10	3300.90	3.70
FTSE 350	1820.20		+0.1	1848.50	1482.40	3.87
FT Small Cap	1972.05		+0.1	1993.11	1678 81	3.16
FT All Share	1795.26	+1.84	+0.1	1821.21	1459 23	3.82
New York *	5048.84	-12.28	-0.2	5216.47	3832.08	2.33
Tokyo	20287.42		Closed	20689.03	14485.41	0.751
Hong Kong	10634.50		+0.9	10634.50	6967.93	3.521
Frankfurt	2359.05	+2.60	<b>∔</b> 0.1	2359.05	1910.96	1 881



1.55 1.55 1.55 1.55 1.55 1.55 1.55 1.57 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.52	W T F M	279 227 225 225 221 219 217 219	Companies have responded positively to the strong pressure on their margins, by cutting operating costs through employment reductions. These trends are set to continue, suggesting further scope for efficiency gains over the months ahead, said Sudhir Junankar, the CBI's associate director of economic
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CURRENCIES



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'Here's an heretical thought: maybe Kenneth Clarke has the electoral outlook on his mind - in particular the odds on an election this year rather than next. following Emma

Nicholson's defection'

## A moment of temptation for the Chancellor

The received wisdom in the City is that Kenneth Clarke will cut interest rates soon - although not tomorrow when he meets Eddie George in the first monthly monetary meeting of the year. But there's cartainly many that the contains the state of the state certainly more than an outside chance that the Chancellor will take a leaf out of the German Bundesbank's book and wrong-foot

the markets.
The official theology of interest rate decisions is that they are taken on the basis of the outlook for inflation two years hence. Provided that underlying inflation is set to come in below the effective target of 2.5 per cent, rates can be cut. We are asked to helieve that political considerations, including any unseemly thoughts about the date of the election, arc set on one side. Instead the augurers of inflation targeting in the Treasury and the Bank of England pore over the entrails of economic data between each monthly monetary meeting to see whether the new information has changed the outlook in two years' time.

Suspend your disbelief for a moment and take the doctrine at face value. What are the entrails telling the official soothsayers? In sum, since rates were cut on 13 December by a quarter-point, the stalling in the manufacturing economy has become even more serious, but there have been some green shoots of a revival in consumption. The question is which way this tug of forces will pult

We now know that manufacturing pro-

duction in the three months ending November was fractionally down on the previous three months - the first such decline for two years. Prospects are hlighted not just by a big inventory overhang but by the seemingly inexorable slide of Germany and France into recession. With a quarter of visible exports going to these two key economics, manufacturers know bener than most that no man

On the other hand, the CBI distributive trades survey reported last week that retailers had enjoyed their best Christmas for two years. There are signs that the housing recov-ery might be under way. The signals from monetary data are also set green.

The obvious thing to do in such circumstances is to wait and sec. The outlook for inflation in two years' time will be so much clearer in a month, Chancellor. But here's an heretical thought; maybe Kenneth Clarke also has the electoral outlook on his mind in particular the increased odds on an election this year rather than next, following Emma Nicholson's defection.

With the sands of the electoral hourglass running faster than he might have hoped, Mr Clarke has to make sure that a downwind from the manufacturing sector does not knock the consumer off his perch. A rash of lay-offs is just the reminder of job insecurity that could knock consumer confidence for six, so dashing Treasury expectations that consumers will save the day.

When Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George

ployment and earnings figures in front of them but also the retail price inflation and sales figures due to be released on Thursday. If these convey the message of continued success in the battle against inflation together with trouble on the jobs front, the temptation for Mr Clarke to grab his chance while he can and go the extra quarter-point now could prove too much for him to resist.

#### Bagging the carpetbaggers

ottery culture rules, OK, and it's not just Camelot and scratch cards. It is the building societies too. The hordes chasing the easy money of building society conver-sion, or "carpetbaggers" as Woolwich has christened them, have become as much a feature of the 1990s as the Lottery queue.

The whole thing is getting out of hand. What to do about it? Safeguards were pu into the 1986 building societies legislation, restricting cash handouts to members of more than two years' standing, but this was easily circumvented and does not cover share distributions. The original intention of the Act, to reduce destabilising flows of money between societies as they approached the conversion stage, simply did not work.

In practice, most societies have tackled the problem with a blunt instrument. They have upped their minimum deposits to limit the

Alliance to £5,000 hefore Christmas. The drawback is that this gives clear confirma-tion that something is in the wind, and it louds the dice heavily in favour of more prosperous punters with the cash to put a few thousand into several societies at once.

A public company in such a position would have suspended its shares pending an announcement. Perhaps societies should take a leaf out of the Stock Exchange's book. They should be told to take action immedialely there is a leak or strong speculation, by announcing that all new accounts opened from that date are ineligible for a handout. If they change their minds and stay mutual, no harm is done, but if they do convert the carpethaggers will have missed their chance.

#### Forte's eight codgers extract their premium

The Council of Forte and the quite out of proportion £50m it is to receive for its share stake in the beleasuered hotels group may seem like something of a side issue set against the cut-and-thrust of the main takeover battle but there are issues of importance here. Set up in the early 20th century to promote temperance, the council continues to exercise voting control over the company in which it owns less than 0.1 per cent of the capital, all vestige of its ong-

number of new investors. Woolwich raised its minimum to £500 last summer and does the anachronistic nature of this bizarre does the anactirous tie nature of this dizarre little organisation stop there. The council even has its own "medical adviser". Dr Wal-ter Somerville of 149 Harley Street. The eight old codgers who make up the council. however, are clearly nobody's fools. The premium they have extracted from Granada for

"control" is a very substantial one.
Forte's spin doctors have tried to make this into something of a scandal for it appears that Granada first tried to persuade the council to sell its stake without restric-tions, which would have enabled it to declare victory regardless of the view of other share-holders. Outrage! When you think about it. however, the scandal is really the other way round. It is absurd that the council could have been allowed to continue with its allpowerful position, eventually securing a price that, if distributed among other investors, would have been worth an extra

2p a share on the hid price. Granada may have been a touch com-placent when it launched its bid and its motives and reasoning may still leave a loi to be desired. But a company that can allow such a ridiculous anomaly as the Council of Forte to go undealt with cannot deserve much sympathy. Likewise yesterday's deathbed repentance, Sir Rocco Forte's agreement to split his roles as chairman and chief executive, looks too little too late. City sentiment can move dramatically, but Forte's position looks increasingly desperate.

The ETAP development

150m east of Aberdeen

North Sea

**ETAP oil fields** 

## Direct Line takes the lead in comprehensive car insurance

NIC CICUTTI

Direct Line, the telephone-based insurer formed in 1985. now has the largest market sbare of the comprehensive motor insurance market, with 11.2 per cent of policies sold in the UK

The insurer, whose market share rose from 4.8 per cent only four years ago to more than 2.2 million policyholders today, bas grown mainly at the expense of big composite insurers, according to the most recent official figures.

The only two large insurers to have fought back and increased their market share are Eagle Star, up to 9.3 per cent from 7.1 per cent in 1992, and Norwich Union, which grew from 7.7 per cent to 8.1 per cent.

Both insurers are among those that reacted fastest to Direct Line's operation by cutting their own rates. They bave also now launched their own telephone-based

based its survey on returns filed by insurance companies with the Department of Trade and Industry at the end of 1994.

The report said: "[Direct Line's phenomenal growth has been due to the development of a strong brand image and a policy of undercutting the prices of most of its closest rivals by leaving out the middleman - the

lost business share are Royal, General Accident, Sun Alliance, Guardian Royal Exchange, Commercial Union and Cornhill,

Churchill Insurance, a telephone insurer set up in opposition to Direct Line, was the only other company to grah a sizeable slice of the comprehensive insurance market.

A Direct Line spokeswoman said vesterday that the company's latest information showed that its share had risen to the point where it was twice as large as the second-largest competitor in the market.

"One of the reasons that we bave been able to build share so rapidly is that we are probably one of the cheapest insurance companies in the world. Our expenses are about 11 per cent. compared to an industry aver-

age of 25 per cent," she added. Eagle Star said yesterday: "We were certainly one of the insurance first traditional insurers to set up a direct service, Eagle Star Datamonitor, a research and Direct, in 1989. The customer cluding brokers, but obviously the direct market is of growing importance. It is a very competitive market and we are one of the most competitive in it.

Norwich Union launched its own telephone-based insurance service earlier this month. However, Datamonitor also said that after several years of

growth in the molor insurance market, the continuing slow-



Cutting out the middleman: Direct Line has benefited from comparatively low costs, claiming expenses of 11 per cent, compared with an industry average of 25

down in car sales will lead to a lail-off in policies sold.

"This lack of growth may in part be due to the slowing growth in the UK population which results in a stagnating car market," the report said.

At the same time, the gap be-ments governing claims. Until tween comprehensive and then, comprehensive policies third-party motor insurance subsidised third-party ones, policies is shrinking in the wake leaving a price differential of of a decision three years ago by most of the industry to end oldstyle knock-for-knock agree-

showing that manufacturing

output was flat in November.

vesterday's figures brought

favourable news on the inflation

both prices manufacturers paid

for inputs of materials, up 1.6

per cent, and charged at the fac-

tory gate, up 0.8 per cent. were disappointingly high last month.

But an upward blip in oil prices

and higher excise duties im-

posed in the Budget explained

most of these jumps.

The headline increases in

about £100 between both types of insurance. This has now fall-35 million barrels of natural gas en 10 £65 or so.

## £1.6bn North Sea oil field wins go-ahead

Peterhead •

Grangemouth

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

The Government has given the go-ahead for a £1.6hn oil field development in the North Sea, 150 miles east of Aberdeen. The so-called Etap project, which is a clutch of seven fields, is 53 per cent-owned by BP, which will also act as the operator.

The project is a first in bring-ing together a number of fields and operators within a single development. A spokesman for BP said: "Not many, if any, of these would have gone ahead as single fields. This is a first in being done collectively."

Announcing the approval, Tim Eggar, minister for energy and industry, said UK companies had won all important fabrication work, and the domestic industry was expected to secure "a very high proportion" of the

capital investment budget.
The Etap partners include
Shell, Esso, Agip, Murphy, Broken Hill Proprietary and Mitsubishi Oil, A City analyst said; To get oil companies to work together in this way is a miracle. It means that the industry The oil sector has been forced to take a more co-operative approach because of the maturity of the North Sea and

he cost of exploiting smaller or far-flung fields. The fields in Etap are Marnock, Mungo, Monan, Machar, Heron. Egret and Skua. In aggregate, they have about 400 million barrels of oil,

SCOTLAND liquids and more than a thoualso establishing infrastructure sand billion cubic feet of gas. The analyst said that the total combined reserves were

probably more than each of the much-lauded new fields west of Shetland - Brittania and Schehallion. He said that, nevertheless, the £1.6bn cost of de- duction scheduled for the latter velopment was high and could half of 1998. About 30 wells will mean that the partners were be drilled.

for further projects in the area. The peak exports from Etap are expected to reach 210,000 barrels per day of oil and 360 million cubic feet of gas, Drilling will begin in the middle of the year with first pro-

**Economics Correspondent** 

New evidence vesterday that inflation is on the retreat boosted the prospect of another cut in interest rates. This could take place as early as tomorrow, after the first monetary meeting between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Governor of the Bank of England since the new year, and is widely expected within the next two months.

The favourable news on manufacturers prices last month came on the same day that MPs on the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee expressed doubts whether the Ireasury's Budget forecast of 3 per cent growth this year could be achieved without reductions in interest rates.

William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, defended the economic record. There is more good news ahead," he promised, referring to last month's hase rate cut. The MPs' report said the Bank of England's cautious

policy stance "does not assist"

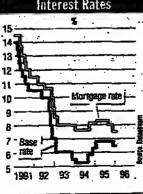
its credibility. It said the Bank's

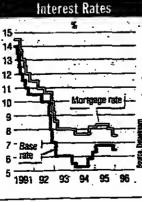
views would be discounted if it

was consistently pessimistic about inflation.

The slippage in plans to bring public borrowing down to zero was the "biggest disappointment" about the Budget, the cross-party committee said. It also accused the Treasury of wishful thinking about the hous-ing market, in predicting – for the second year running - a re-covery in prices and sales. The Royal Institute of Char-

tered Surveyors yesterday reported an improvement in housing market activity in the final quarter of last year. Estate agents reported a more up-





beat mood among buyers and sellers. But Woolwich Building Society said the number of homeowners with negative equity, where their property is worth less than their mortgage. increased by 40,000 to an esti-

mated 1.16 million in the last three months of 1995 compared with the previous three. The increase was due to a 0.6 per cent fall in house prices between the two quarters. Woolwich added there were tentative signs the housing market might

executive. said: "House prices are predicted to rise around 2 per cent, which should remove around 250,000 households

from the negative equity trap." Building societies are likely to reduce mortgage rates again even without the trigger of a fall in base rates, according to of six to nine months. Robert Thomas, an analyst at investment bank UBS. "Building societies are coming under pressure to come up with better rates for customers. They are generating a lot of profits and have to start giving some of it

be beginning to improve. The underlying news was Peter Robinson, group chief much better. The year-on-year

rate of increase in input prices fell to 5.8 per cent, its lowest for 18 months. The annual rate of "core" factory gate inflation, ex-cluding food and energy fell to 4.3 from 4.6 per cent in No-vember. Retail price inflation tracks this core rate with a lag Although most City econo-

mists think an interest rate move is more likely in February or March, few will rule out a surprise early cut. Data on retail and factory

gate prices, earnings, uncm-ployment and retail sales are Following recent statistics due this week.

#### IN BRIEF

BAA sets passengers record BAA, the UK's biggest airports group, shrugged aside competition from the Channel Tunnel and a difficult package holiday market to announce a record 91.8 million passengers for 1995. The

BAA said all large markets recorded increases in December, with the strongest growth of 14.5 per cent on long-haul routes. North Atlantic traffic increased 11 per cent, while domestic traf-

#### **British Land completes Broadgate buy**

British Land has completed the purchase of the 50 per cent of the Broadgale office development it does not already own for £121.3m. It has also paid back £701.5m of Broadgate Properties bank debt, leaving only a £98m facility outstanding on one of the development's buildings. British Land now owns the whole of the 2 million square foot site, worth just over £1bn.

#### Names awarded £175m compensation

Agents at Lloyd's of London were ordered by a judge to pay a first £175m tranche of compensation to names on the Feltrim insurance syndicates. Feltrim names won a ruling last March that their agents were liable for a large part of the £600m lost in the insurance market in the late Eighties and early Nineties. The ruling is the first on the size of compensation in respect of negligent underwriting on the 1987-1989 years of account.

#### Cash due from generator investors

Investors who bought shares in National Power and PowerGen in the second-round privatisation sale last March must pay the second instalments shortly. A reminder is being sent out today to 1.5 million investors, saying cheques must be received by the registrars by 1 February in time to be cleared by 6 February.

#### IG Index to offer forex dealing

and \$1m, or the equivalents, in 25 currencies.

#### Laura Ashley shake-up continues

Fashion chain Laura Ashley has appointed two new directors. Patricia Manning joins as marketing director and Deborah Baker as director of human resources.

#### Babcock wins £50m orders

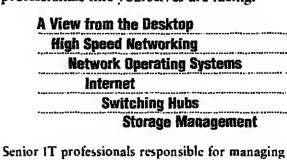
division. Orders worth a further £42m could be in the offing.

# NEW CONNAUGHT ROOMS, LONDON

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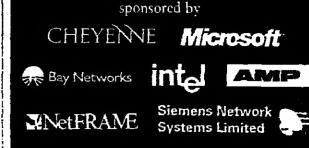
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## Eurotunnel attacks 'cynical' forecasts

DAVID HELLIER

Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel operator, vesterday accused British Rail and the UK and French governments of providing "cynical" forecasts at the project's outset for the number of passengers who would pass through by rail.

Eurotunnel was intended by the two governments to use these high forecasts to go out and raise money from you, the fund managers and underwitters; and from the world banks; and in due course from the enthusiastic small investors in hackers.

Britain and France," he said in a speech at a Robert Fleming conference about Europe's high-speed railways. In one of his most bard-hit-

ting attacks on the UK governmeni so far. Sir Alastair said an esumate of 16 million passengers a year made in 1986 when our promoters were being led on hy Her Majesty's Government" - had since been dramatically reduced to 5.1 million passengers. The shortfall in rail passengers is one of the reasons Eurotunnel is having to renegotiate its banking

Sir Alastair warned potential operators, investors and investors in the proposed high-speed Channel Tunnel rail project to "count their fingers very carefully before and after any handshakes at their meet-ings with the Department of Transport and double their bat-

talions of legal advisers". He said that, two weeks before Christmas, Euroturnel's dialogue with bankers was thrown into chaos by the updated forecast of traffic through the tunnel for the rest of the century. Under the concession granted to Euroteanel, the op-

and French railways that it would give up half its capacity to rail traffic. In return the company received an annual minimum payment of £200m a year.

Sir Alastair's point is that since the rail traffic figures

have been so poor the Eurotunnel project has inevitably disappointed on its revenue figures. Sir Alastair said there were various protests from the embryonic Eurotunnel group which tended to question the size of the traffic figures. But attempts to seek "to share in the milway revenues rather than fix the price per passage ... were erator had to assure the British steam-rollered".

figures included a 7.4 per cent increase in December to 6.6 mil-

fic saw a rise of 8 per cent.

IG Index, the City betting agency that caters for slickers gambling on everything from share and currency prices to parliamentary majorities, is spreading its wings into straightforward foreign exchange dealing. It will offer a service aimed at small to mediumsized companies looking to trade in amounts between \$100,000

Engineering group Babcock International has announced international contracts worth over £50m for its materials handling

## Tomkins opens Gates to growth

to-bread-to-lawnmowers conglomerate it admires but always from a suspicious

Yesterday's half-year figures for the six months to October were as impressive as ever, continuing the relentless rise in earnings per share and dividends since 1984, but the shares closed 10p lower at 269p.

Although profits rose 10 per cent to £126.1m and the interim dividend was increased 11 per cent to 2.7p, the market had expected a touch more. After last year's outperformance of the market (following three years of stagnation) the temptation to take profits proved too much.

Worse, the "technical and highly complex" hitches to the final completion of the recently announced Gates acquisition gave investors the jitters. Gates, a manufacturer of belts and

hoses for the car industry, is widely viewed as the key to changing City sen-timent on Tomkins, which has struggled to shake off scepticism about the 1992 acquisition of the baker RHM. The RHM is nothing more complex than a manufacturing husiness and it has confounded the deal's harshest critics meering seals. Bundy for small-diamby unexpectedly pushing through two price rises in less than a year.

But investors, simple souls, are able to see that Gates is the sort of manufacturing business at which Tomkins excels and are therefore happier that Tomkins can make a profitable fist of

The company is currently gagged by confidentiality clauses and so cannot say as much, but worries that the deal might nnt go ahead look way wide of the mark

Once that concern is out of the way, attenting will return to Tomkins's core husinesses, which in the first half all registered increases in margins despite a patchy market in a number of sectors. There were downgrades to forecasts yesterday, hut they were extremely modest.

As ever, the steady husinesses such as plastic mouldings, conveyor systems and plumbing fittings allowed Tomkins to have problems in its US bicycle arm, for example, and still remain on the rails. They also provide the backing and cash flow for the company to he able lo consider longer-lerm projects such as raising milling and baking margins to acceptable levels.

At 4.1 per cent there is still a way to

go at the old RHM, but up from 3.3 per cent a year ago the return from bread is heading the right way. On the basis of forecast profits of £330m this year and £369m next (with-

shares stand on a prospective priceearnings ratio of only 12 - cheap for a company of this quality and, with the backing of a 4.5 per cent yield, the shares should have another good year.

#### Ten years' grind pays off for TI

The appointment to TI's board of Rudolf Mueller, the respected head of UK operations at UBS, confirms the coming of age of the seals-to-wheels engineering group. One of the highest-rated engineering stocks during the 1980s boom, its reputation slipped a bit in the early 1990s as its aggressive approach to accounting rules came under the microscope. der the microscope.

But unlike other acquisitive groups, which ran out of steam when the music stopped, the recession has only served to prove the soundness of the TI strategy. Sir Christopher Lewinton, the company's chairman and former company has always claimed that chief executive, has spent the last 10 eter tubing for the car industry and Dowty Aerospace, the landing gear-to-propellors group acquired for £510m in 1992. The results have come through

1994, the pre-tax figure had soared to £153m and Nat West Markets forecasts a further rise to £180m last year and £203m this time.

The omens are now positive for all the group's three areas. TI suffered a deal of indigestion after the Dowty deal, but the £30.2m chalked up before interest in 1994 showed a reasonable return on an acquisition cost reduced by around £80m of disposals. The 50:50 joint venture with the Messier business of Snecma of France has created a world leader in undercarriage systems and there is scope for rationalisation

improvements.

The recent huge potential order for 77 Boeing 777s for Singapore Airlines spells good news for Dowty as a supplier, as will any orders for Airbus if British Airways moves in the direction of the European plane-maker. Elsewhere, worries over US and European motor vehicle output, which accounts for much of the 35 per cent of group sales sold into automotive markets, look overdone. Both may now be at or near the bottom and TI has shown its ahility in the past to add value to its tubes by supplying complete systems, rather than just the commodity product.

Finally, the 40 per cent of sales that o into heavy industrial process markets should do well at this late stage in the world economic cycle, while Tl

Total Controls   Tota	Turnover (£bn) 2.06 Pre-tax profits (£m) 171 Earnings per share (pence) 13.3 Dividends per share (pence) 6.35  Segmental analysis (£m) Food Fluid controls 5ervice 15.8 industry industry	1994 3.25 257	3.73	1994	
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The market likes nothing more than a good reason to sell Tomkins, the guns-shares stand on a prospective price-shared to have the guns-shares stand on a prospective price-shared to have the guns-shares stand on a prospective price-shared to have the guns-shares stand on a prospective price-shared to have the guns-shares stand on a prospective price-shared to have the guns-shared to have the projects are being sited. On a prospective p/e of 16 for this year, the shares, up 2p at 470p, stand on a well deserved premium rating. Hold.

#### Encouragement at Hillsdown

With Hillsdown Holdings' £12Im deal to buy Hobson declared unconditional yesterday, attention now switches to the company's plans for its new ac-quisition and whether the company is

On the first point, the Hobson deal looks encouraging for Hillsdown. It was achieved on a relatively attractive price and there are obvious potential synergies. Like Hillsdown, Hobson manufactures hiscuits, sauces and ready-made meals, which are sold as own-label products to supermarkets. Hillsdown will be looking for cost savings in logistics, packaging and the purchase of raw materials.

Hobson's London head office is likely to be closed and there may be further rationalisation in the factories, although nothing has been announced so far. Other parts, such as the wine and spirits, soft drinks and cereals business, look surplus to requirements and it would be no surprise if they were sold.

This is all good news but a recovery at Hillsdown still depends on a number of external factors that conspired against it last year. The company suffered more than most from the hot summer last year, which hit demand for Hillsdown's tea bags, hot drinks, hiscuits and ready-made meals. On top of this, the continued rise in raw material prices wrecked the company's margins. After a good run earlier in the year the shares collapsed from an August high of 200p to 151p in December.

This year should be better. Barring a recurrence of another mercury-busting summer, demand should be back to normal and raw material pressures are now casing. The company is also likely to offload more of its peripheral businesses and its red meat operations are tipped for disposal soon.

One persistent problem, however, is supermarkel pressure and Hillsdown is still finding it difficult to push price increases through. .

BZW is forecasting £150m profits for the current year. With the shares unchanged yesterday at 174p, that puts them on a forward rating of 10. Food manufacturing may not be the most exciting sector at the moment but at these levels Hillsdown looks good value.

## Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

## Eurotunnel chief rails against the train-makers

The Year of Our Lord 1996 finds Sir Alastair Morton in vintage form. Whatever new year resolutions were made by the irascible chairman of Eurotunnel, a vow to be less confrontational was not among them. Speaking yes-terday at Fleming's conference on European High-Speed Railways, Sir Alastair branded Britain as "the laughable tail-end Charlie" and took the opportunity

to lambast the performance of industry suppliers. "We can't even say GEC Alsthom's Eurostars handle the upgraded Kent line satis-factorily," barked Sir Alas-tair, "while Brush's new Class 92 locomotives are in all kinds of conflict with sig-

nalling and other electrics. The Eurotunnel boss is keen that neither the manufacturers nor "what was BR" escape hlame for what he reckons is a lamentable performance in Britain generally and toward Eurotunnel in

"Our view of Breda Fiat as a supplier is completely un-printable." railed the tunnel operator. "Our view of Brush is charitable on good days hut not on bad days." Come on now. Don't beat

about the hush Sir Alastair.

Desperate to raise £8.1m in private money to fund its new theatre (the condition for unlocking an award of £30m from the National Lot-tery) Sadler's Wells yesterday resorted to the time-honoured technique of going cap in hand to the City. Having raised £1.4m from existing supporters the theatre still needs another £6.7m and has responded with the launch of a "hold funo-raising initiative" - a theatrical euphemism for tapping corporate Britain in return for the "rare opportunity" to

Leafing through the December issue of Forbes in a dentist's waiting room, one's eves are drawn inexorably to unpalatable photographs of balding heads and distended

name a seat in the new



limions on Sir Lawrie Barratt's Yorkshine estate were amos to see Camilla Parker Bowles (above) smoking furiously in the car park of the Feversham Arms on the weekend. Riding with the Farndale hunt, the royal mistress did not look as if she was enjoying her spell on the housebuilder's spectacularly beautiful land. Possibly down to a noticeable police presence.

organs. The magazine is concerned that the American . businessman has gone into plastic surgery in a very hig way, pointing out that men accounted for one quarter of the one million plastic surgery operations in the US last year - up from virtually nothing ten years ago. Most male patients are businessmen between the ages of 40

and 60, it concludes. Hair transplants aside, the ageing businessman is most concerned about his wrinkled eyes. "His eyes are what he uses to meet his clients every day," says Dr William Riley, a Houston plastic sur-geon. At \$8,000 for a face lift (\$1.700 for a pot belly) none of this is cheap. But all pales into insignificance compared with the cost of a hair trans-

plant. Dr Melvin Mayer, a 46-

year-old doctor from San Diego, was voted the baldest man at his twentieth High School reunion. So he spent \$40,000 on a new head of hair. Clearly impressed by the earnings growth potential he went into the business. Now he owns 15 clinics performing 200 transplants a month.

Much like Victor Kiam and his razors. Only in reverse.

The synergies might not be immediately apparent but IG Index, the spread betting specialist, is to offer a foreign exchange dealing service. Aimed at the smallerhusiness it will feature some 25 currencies with a dealing : minimum of \$100,000. Now you can buy dollars as part of a hedging strategy and still lose the lot on a punt on the next Tory majority.

## Fear of recession stalks Europe

The mood of the European economy has suddenly shifted. In the space of a couple of weeks it has moved from nagging concern about slower growth into real fear: fear that recession has returned.

In fact the reality has not changed, for prospects for growth this year in the two largest Continental European markets, Germany and France. have been weak for some time. But there has been a shift in perception, highlighted by figures last week showing sharply rising unemployment in Germany (in December only a whisker below 10 per cent), an estimate that the German hudget deficit last year was 3.6 per cent of GDP, not the 3 per cent previously expected, and reports of a forthcoming forecast of very slow growth in France. Now the string of gloomy news has he-come quite relentless, for just about every day some new story emerges of a downgraded forecast or poor actual figures.

The new thing this week, though, is some defensive state-ment by an official or a politician. Yesterday's crop included an assurance by Michel Camdessus, the French managing director of the International Monetary Fund, that "there is no particular reason to panic" over Germany's fiscal deficit figures, and the Italian minister Susanna



ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH McRAE

tricht criteria should only be met if it is possible without social upheaval. "We cannot face more unemployment," she said. icant of the defensive statements came from the French Labour Minister, Jacques Barrot, He

But perhaps the most signifseemed to be paving the way for downgrading the forecast for

Agnelli's view that the Maasyear is 2.8 per cent. A leak from the ministry of finance suggests that it will more likely be 1.3 to 1.7 per cent. This will naturally make the fiscal posi-tion for 1996 even worse, and if a report in yesterday's Le Monde proves correct, the government is already massaging the public finances for 1995 by adding in some tax revenue re-French growth by explaining ceived in the first few days of

#### The spectre of stagnation could come to haunt Europe if Germany makes the same mistake as Japan

that, though in the past growth in the 1 to 2 per cent region would have led to a sharp fall in employment government measures should reduce its impact. "Even if growth is insufficient to create the new jobs we need," he said, "we should be able to put a brake on a rise in unemployment this year,"

At the moment the official French growth forecast for this

THE STANDARD BY WHICH ALL EXECUTIVE CARS MUST BE THE OMEGA FROM VAUXHALL 😩 1996 and pushing some spend-ing from last year into this one. The cumulative effect of this stream of information is twofold: political and economic.

From a political point of view it is beginning to look as though neither France nor Germany will, by 1997, meet the key Maastricht criterion for a European currency: a fiscal deficit of less than 3 per cent of GDP. In addition, Germany is perilously close to the 60 per cent of GDP limit for total public deht and a year of very slow growth could nudge it above that.

There are even suggestions that such a failure to qualify will be welcomed, if not in Bonn, certainly in Frankfurt, where the financial community has the gravest doubts about the wisdom

of the whole currency plan. But the political fallout from the inability to meet the Maas-tricht criteria is in the future. It is like a devaluation. Until it happens the official world not only ignores the possibility; it denies that the possibility exists. We are not yet at crunch time. We are much closer to crunch

time on economics. Either the Continental economy is going to fall off a cliff, or interest rates

If looking at the US gives the best feel for the behaviour of the British economy, so looking at Japan should give the best feel for the behaviour of France

UK has experienced low infla-tion and decent-ish growth. But this has been associated with a high sense of job insecurity and insufficient confidence in recovery - insufficient, that was. to ensure the re-election of the incumbent. Now there is a real possibility

that Germany and France will experience a first half of this year where there is no growth at all, maybe even decline. Japan has experienced three years of bouncing along the bottom, not technically in recession, but not growing either. True, both Germany and France experienced sharp growth in the second half of 1994 and the first half of last year, but now the spectre of stagnation could come to haunt much of Continental Europe. It will come in particular if Germany and France (and actually that really just means Germany1 make the same mistake as Japan and do not ease monetary pol-

icy quickly enough.
The markets do expect German interest rates to fall this spring, and there have even been suggestions that the Bundesbank Council meeting this week could cut them. On balance that seems unlikely, though some individual council members have been hinting in this direction. But what we are talking about here is not the modest easing of short-term rates and the modest further falls in bond yields which the markets expect. There is a real danger of a vi-cious circle establishing itself, with rising unemployment leading to cuts in consumption which will lead to further unemployment, which will in turn cut consumption still further.

Of course all economies are ultimately self-correcting in any case the Bundeshank is immensely competent and once assured of the dangers would drive down interest rates. Eventually lower interest rates would prevail and recovery would be re-stored. But we could wait most of this year before that happened.

Maybe that point above could be rephrased: if interest rates do not fall fast, the fading Continental economy will pull them down. Either way, the market seems likely to be surprised by a plunge in rates, just as the politicians have been surprised by the plunge in growth. Remember as they trot out that each new item of gloom on the economic front shouts "expect and Germany. Like the US, the lower interest rates".

## Hotel Breaks with THEINDEPENDENT

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Today we have pictured the Bryn Tirion Hotel in Anglesey. Noted for its fine food and wine, this intimate hotel has excellent views across Red Wharf bay. A double room for one night costs £64,

We will feature another hotel tomorrow in The Inde- 5. pendent and give you a fourth

Pictured is Bryn Tirion Hotel, Wales

ate in our 2 For 1 offer you To participate in our 2 For 1 offer you must collect 4 differently numbered to-kers and attach them to a voucher which will be printed on the final day of the offer, Saturday 20 January along with a confirmation booking form. The voucher may be redeemed at any participating Mirrotal hotal featured in The Independent's directory (printed on Wednesday 17 January) for one free night's bed and breakfast for two people in a standard twin or double bedded room when a second night's bed and breakfast is pre-purchased at the tariff indicated. All prices shown are per room per night.

are per room per night. Some hotels, at the proprietors' dislonger stave on the same 2 For 1 besis. so you can stay for 4 nights for the pnce of 2 for example. Please check with your chosen hotel when making your booking. The youther does not cover a

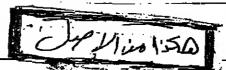
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able at the hotel. One child, under the age of 12 years at the time of booking and sharing a room with two adults will be accom-modated free of charge but all meals, including breakfast, will be chargeable The descriptions and prices contained in this offer have been supplied by par-

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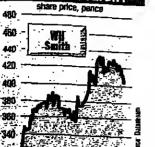
Banks feel the benefit of interest rate expectations

## market report/shares

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SEAQ VOLUME 589.3m shares, 30,956 bargains Gifts Index

95.6 SHARE SPOTLIGHT



The market moved forward tentatively yesterday, led by a general hope of further cuts

soon in interest rates across Europe. The Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England are due to hold their monthly meeting tomorrow, but the consensus among dealers is that another reduction in UK rates is unlikely to precede a move by the Buodesbank.

Most of the hopes of lower borrowing costs were reflected in the gilts market, where looger-dated issues advanced

by around half a point. Fresh UK economie data showing the lowest rate of inflation for 18 months in input prices and lower factory gate price rises helped to bolster the belief that interest rates would

Leading shares traded in positive territory throughout the session, although prices started to retreat towards the

close due to a lacklustre opeoing on Wall Street, where many traders stayed at home, taking advantage of Martin Luther King Day. The FT-SE 100 closed 5.4

figures were nothing much to write home about, with 589 mil-

lion shares changing hands. Bank shares were the main

beneficiary of the expectations

of a fresh round of cuts in in-

terest rates. Abbey National

added 7.5p to 645p, National

Westmioster firmed 2p to 637p, and Lloyds TSB rose 8p

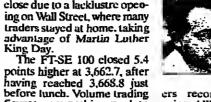
strike action clipped 3p off Royal Bank of Scotland to 542p. More than 2,000 mem-

bers of the Bifu union at 50

branches are voting on

Food Manufacturers

Concerns about possible



MARKET REPORT

JOHN SHEPHERD

ers recorded double-digit gains. Allied Domecq almost joined the select band, finishing the session 9p higher at 543p as Credit Lyonnais Laing penned the stock's name to its

elected buy list for this year. The sale of Allied's interest in Carlsberg Tetley, the brewing venture jointly owned with Carlsberg of Denmark, is still awaited by a market anxious for the company to reduce in size and concentrate oo re-

tailing and spirits. Bass, tipped as a possible buyer of the Tetley side of the business, advanced 13p to 716p. Whitbread, also said to be in the bidding queue and ru-

a couple of hundred free-of-tie pubs, firmed a penny to 676p.
Among the most noticeable fallers in the top flight was WH Smith, dropping 7p to 404p amid some worries about the results announcement next week - in particular the trading performance of the Do It

All chain of DIY sheds jointowned with Boots. Boots last week said sales at the sheds were declining, and analysts believe there is still too much over-capacity in the market despite numerous closures in the last couple of years.

Further light will also be cast on the DIY market next week by trading updates from Sainsbury, owner of the Homebase

chain, and Kingfisher, which runs the B&Q outlets. Kingfisher lost 7p to 524p.

hut Sainsbury advanced 11p to 415p as investors started to warm to last week's management changes.
The retailing tiddler Clinton

Cards enjoyed a good session, closing 4p better at 124p on gossip of record sales of Christmas cards. Generally, the day's trading was kept subdued by a absence

of corporate announcements. Tomkins was the only major company to release results, which were below expectations. A lack of fresh news about the technical hitches holding up Tomkins' \$1boplus acquisition of Gates also hit the shares, which closed 10p

down at 269p.

Cable & Wireless shares were out of favour despite the extraordinary shareholders meeting clearing the path for the company appoint a non-

British subject to the vacant chief executive's chair. The price lost 7p to 453p, principally due to fading hopes of a break-up of C&W.

Elsewhere, Arjo Wiggins put on 3p to 185p after putting flesh on the booes of its previously announced £100m restructuring programme. Almost 700 jobs will be lost right across the company's paper operations

in Europe. Forte suffered another blow in its fight for survival against Granada, and the wound was self-inflicted. Forte lost 3p to 366p, while Granada climbed 7p to 670p

Sir Rocco Forte's decision to split the roles of chairman and chief executive fell short of what investors had been expecting. He intends, all things being well, to remain as chief executive and hand over the chairman's reins to Sir Anthony Tennant, currently

**Share Price Data** 

The independent index

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

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FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

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LK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05
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Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21

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Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) latto is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

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The speculative takeover spotlight fell firmly on World of Leather yesterday. The shares elimbed 6p to 70p with several dealers predicting that a bid for the group may be mounted before the end of the week. Rumoured favourites to mount a strike are DFS Furniture, headed by Graham Kirkham, and Carpetright,

led by Sir Phil Harris.

TAKING STOCK

Tiny BCE Holdings was one of the session's most actively traded shares as the company accompand place to sell its non-core arcades and snooker businesses, to coocentrate oo its computer games business. Durlacher. broker to BCE, placed an issoe of 10 million oew shares with several institutional clients at 20.75p. The price closed 0.25p up at 23p. Robin Jones and Barry Adams also resigned as directors, and sold 3 million shares.

530000 TBN 490000 General Beca. 440000 Cable & Vire

Bank of Scotland 420000 Pilongton WPP 420000 Sears

**Building/Construction** 

whether to take action over a age dispute. Only a handful of the leadmoured to be close to selling

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BALL BALL

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Dallas and Pittsburgh struggled to reach Super Bowl, reports Matt Tench

# Underdogs just fail at final hurdle

The Green Bay Packers and Indianapolis Colts will have a long time to come to terms with game close for three quarters. heroic failure. Both were given but at the death were beaten by little chance when entering their own exhaustion. For this, hostile territory against highly-fancied opponents, and both produced outstanding perform-ances. But both will be back home awaiting the start of the game Smith rushed for 150 1996 season when the Daltas Cowhoys and Pittsburgh's including the two scores in the Steelers contest the Super Bowl fourth quarter that gave the

In the process, the two underboasting Aikman, Smith and visitors suddenly led 17-14. Irvin. not to mention Sanders? If the Cowboys' defense allows front by half-time, but a 10-point a one-dimensional attack such third quarter saw the Packers as Green Bay's so many regain the lead again. By now,

balanced Pittsburgh unit? some way the Class of '96, that answer to him.

yards and three touchdowns. Cowboys a 38-27 victory.

That Green Bay were in condogs posed some serious questions about the calibre of their due to Brett Favre. The Pack adversaries. If the Steelers can-quarterback's first six passes not contain an Indianapolis fell incomplete, but his seventh offense shorn of its most lethal and eight yielded scores, and weapon, what chance do they stand against a Dallas armoury two Michael Irvin TDs) the

The Cowboys were back in chances, can it really be more though, the cumulative effects effective against the better of Smith's relentless plunges down the middle had taken Overall, though, the feeling their toll, and come the denoue-

defense can be expected to Colts had been given little Jim Harbaugh launched a and fell incomplete. confront the challenge with chance in Pittsburgh, but as has bomb into the end zone which gusto, but is unlikely to be able been their wont throughout tumbled on to the chest of re-enthusiastic fans it brought an to hospital with a fractured skull Brooks fell into 51-year-old to cope with Emmitt Smith. Few the play-offs, Ted Marchibroda's ceiver Aaron Bailey as it ecstatic ending to a nerve- after banging his head on the ar- Haskell. His condition yesterday do.

team rose to the occasion, bounced off a sea of hands. Had wracking day, but they will have difficial turf following an accident was described as "serious".



remains that the Boys are by ment Green Bay simply had no Driving force: Emmitt Smith celebrates his third touchdown for Dallas

they simply have too much talent in too many areas to be denied. A fearsome Pittsburgh injured Marshall Faulk, the seconds left and trailing 20-16, but the hall rolled down his arm lenged for the Super Bowl.

Because they were without Indeed they very nearly made being on it would have to play a great deal better if on the sidelines in the champ-ionship game. Haskell fell when but the hall rolled down his arm lenged for the Super Bowl.

Gil Haskell, the Green Bay son hit the Green Bay receiver

3.00 Golden Hello 3.30 Doxford Hut

## Lewis agrees date for Bowe

#### Boxing

Lennox Lewis and Riddick Bowe have agreed to fight on 20
April in Las Vegas, according to
Bowe's manager, Rock Newman.
The bout, at Caesars Palace,

is conditional on Bowe resolv-ing his differences with the cable network Time Warner-HBO Sports, which has a long-term deal with the American.

Newman is trying to break the contract, and Time Warner went to court in New York last week to ask a federal judge to uphold the deal.

There will be no formal an-nouncement of the fight until the dispute with Time Warner is settled. Phil Cooper, 8 Caesars Palace spokesman, said they had been negotiating for the bout but he was not aware

heavyweight champion when he gave up the World Boxing Council title, which Lewis then inherited but later lost to Oliver McCall.

Drew Docherty returns to the ring in Mansfield on Saturday, three months after his British bantamweight title defence resulted in the death of James Murray. He challenges Puerto Rica's Daniel Jimenez for the World Boxing Organisation title. After agonising long and hard about whether to continue, he said yesterday: "I cannot wait for the first bell to go.

"The Murray family urged me to carry on. They welcomed me into their house and said I was not to blame. They made me feel a lot hetter, and everywhere else there were no negative comments. I never want to forget about James Murray. I of a deal having been made.

Bowe was the undisputed happened that night."

#### Zimbabwe in trouble

#### Cricket

New Zealand 230-8 dec Zimbabwe 82-5

New Zealand took a firm grip on the first Test in Hamilton yesterday, reducing Zimbabwe to 82 for 5 when stumps were

pulled early on the third day. The hosts declared their first innings just before lunch at 230 for 8 and their pace bowler Chris Cairns then had Zimbabwe reeling when bad light, followed by rain, ended play seven minutes into the third session

of this weather-affected match. New Zealand took control after the lunch break with Cairns taking 3 for 23 in a fierce spell of hostile fast bowling.

MEW ZEALAND — First hadage (Overnight: 154 for 4) ) Astle Ibw Streak L Carns c A Flower b Streak L K Germon c Cartisle b Olonga 

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Whittall not out 

Fall: 1-8 2-13 3-21 4-41 5-50. To bet? P. A. Strong, B. Strang, F. Brandes, H. R. Otonga. Bowling (to date): Carms 12-4-4-23-3; Al-joint 9-2-29-1; Kennedy 7-2-18-1, Tense 2-0-11-0.

## Large challenge to **Dunwoody and Man**

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One Man may seem like a "good" thing" for the Cheltenham Gold Cup after his emphatic King George win, but there are pleny of trainers still willing to pit their horses against him. Entries for the race, published vesterday. stand at 38, the third highest enin in eight years, and include such unlikely candidates as the tailed-off favourite in 1992. Carvill's Hill, and the novice St Mellion Fairway.

Richard Dunwoody will now keep the ride on One Man un- some of the northern courses to til the end of the season after discussions between the horse's owner, John Hales, and the trainer Gordon Richards.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: General Wolfe (Carlisle 2.30) NB: Digpast (Lingfield 3.15)

One Man may not have a race Should One Man have a race. the most likely venue would be

#### Angel's deserts punter

offrey Webster, said: "Coming to the last race there was £1.60 biggest pool since it built up during last year's Cheltenham Fesgoing on to the favourite, Peo-tival and ended up at £922.827 ple Direct, and 10p on Mutee at Exeter on 23 March."

Man's first Gold Cup and Gordon and I agree that it would be wise to retain the services of

prior to the Festival as Gordon has been offered the facilities of help in One Man's preparation.

"As it is, £198.162 is carried over to Carlisle. This is the

## Arch Angel's disqualification and Arch Angel. If Arch Angel

from first place in the last Jack- had not been disqualified, a Tote pot race at Southwell yesterday Direct betting-shop customer cost one punter a share of the would have collected £14,069. biggest pool for nearly a year.

The Tote's spokesman, Ge-

LINGFIELD HYPERION

STALLS: 5( & 1m = outside, remainder = inside).

1.15 Distant Dynasty 1.45 Bells Of Holland 2.15 Elly Fleetfoot (nb) 2.45 Awasha 3.15 Dig-

STALES: 5(A. 1m - course), remainder - model.

IRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 51.

Left-hand, sharp course [Equatack surface).

Course is SE of norm on Hatten, Lingfield station (served by Lendro Actoria reducing course, ADMISSION: All enclosures 59.

CAR PARK: Plub 57: remainder free.

SLINKERED FIRST TIME: Awards (2.45). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Sovereign Prince

Co. 15) won here on Saurday.

LONG-BISTANCE RUNNERS: Miss Offset 1) 45). What's
The Verdict (2.15). Double-O-Seven (2.15). Field Of Vision
(3.45). Domoor (3.45) has been sent 270 miles by M
folasson from Middleham. North Yorkshire.

1.15 RYDE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,700 added 5f

2013-0 SQUIRE CORRE (7) (D) G HEM200 4 9 12.

2015-0 SQUIRE CORREC (7) (D) G Harwoot 4 9 12 Gayle Harwoot (5) 2
10051 1 SUPER ROCKY (13) (CD) 9 Bandman 7 915 M Bastleman 3
502115 HALF TONE (29) (CD) 8 Fower 4 9 9 D Griffons 4
15-000 MAZDM (130) (C) V Macgard 6 9 3 A Bastley (5) 7
5022 0 D DESTANT DOWNSTY (5) (CD) 9 Repres 6 9 0 Feathbase (5) 5
40343 1EE-EMB (41) (CD) 9 Repres 6 9 0 M Band 8
111-11 CHEEKY CHAPPY (6) (CD) (SP) 0 Chapter 55 12
P Feathy 8

BETTENG: 3-1 Cheeky Chaptry, 7-2 Super Rocky, 9-2 Destant Dymsey, 6-1 Neif Tone, 13-2 Ton-Enter, 8-1 Squire Corrie, 12-1 others

1.45 VENTNOR SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,250 added 3YO 7f

Tony Dobbin, who was replaced by Dunwoody for the King George, must now hope that he will be able to partner Richard Dunwoody, whose ex- Unguided Missile, another chasperience in the race could prove er from Richards's stable eninvaluable. It is now possible that tered for the Gold Cup.

"I half expected this to hapn." Dobbin said, "but I am still very disappointed. I definitely think he will win the Gold Cup. I just hope the horse is around longer than Richard Dunwoody."

> A surprising absentee from the entries is last season's King George winner, Algan, François Doumen, successful with The Fellow, has Val D'Alene as his sole representative. The United States champion. Lonesome Glory, due to run in the Peter Marsh Chase on Saturday, has also earned an entry.

Tote Chebracham Gold Cup 14 Varri : Enbriest Same, Samt Samt Samt Samt, Samt Breit
Gale, Cathe Flant Carri silhi, Chatart, Cart
rd Be Better, Geod Samtad, Sunt Frey, Samt
Summer, Pasting Steel, Pret's Vall, Garter
at Russy, Gretty Steel, Pret's Vall, Garter
at Russy, Gretty Steel, Pret's Vall, Garter
at Russy, Vall, Into Rand to Streams, Vall
tonesome Gory, Limb Rand to Streams to Gue,
Nuaffe, One Man, Page Custer, Drug All
tonesome Gory, Colored, Vall
tonesome Gory, Colored, Colore Fote: 13-6 One Mart, 9-2 Master Osts, 20-1 Dubri Piler, 13-1 Banjo, Stoams, Mora eur Le Cure, 16-1 tones

Coreb 7-4 One Ven. 5-1 Vaster Cets. 10-1 Duton Fiyer, 12-1 (costs), 14-1 otters.

#### CARLISLE

1.00 Lothian Commodore 1.30 The Grev Monk

2.00 Santa Concerto 2.30 GENERAL WOLFE (nap)

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in plants).

Regis-hand undulating course Runsin of 250yds.

Course is south of norm on Durlar road. In wast of junction 42 of Mit. Bus service from Carlish station which is 2m ways, ADMISSION: Club \$12 (OAFs & under 21s \$4); Tationally 50 (OAFs & under 21s \$4); CAE PARK: On roads \$3; remained five.

SIS RACING

III LEADING TRAINERS WITH SUNNERS: G Bichards — 20 winners from 178 runners gross a success ratio of 16.3% and a loss to a \$1 lovel state of \$48.78; Mass M Reveley — 23 winners, \$1 runners, 28.7%, -\$2.4%; 31 Hammond — 17 winners, 107 runners, 15.6%, -\$4.6%; C Parker — 14 winners, 115 runners, 12.2%, -\$39.40.

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: P Nives — 31 warners, 112 rides, 27.7%, +56 17: B Storry — 24 warners, 167 rides, 17.6%, -50.21; A Dobbin — 16 warners, 91 rides, 17.6%, -50.21; M Dwyer — 14 warners, 76 rides, 18.4%, -516.90.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: NUCL UNG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Amazon Express (4.00) has been sent 273 miles by P Bowen from Hater-fordast. Dyfort General Wolfe (2.50) has been sent 298 miles by T Pointer from Hater-ordast. Dyfort General Wolfe (2.50) has been sent 298 miles by T Pointer from Hateron. Shropshire

Ŀ	1.00	NAWORTH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,200 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,598
:	0033-50	BE BRAVE (10) Mrs Stephene Personal T Etherngon 5 11 5
=		JOCKS CROSS (87) (8F) (Mrs (69 Harrson: 6 Pictures 5 11 5 A Dobbie
3	6-0	RELIBALLY BOY (49) (E. 2720) PETRESTO, J. H. D'YASH 6 11 5
ن ا		LOTHIAN COMMODORE () A KINGS & G ROTOTS 6 11 5 R Decisionly
5		ROCKETTS CASTLE ACS S & Branch A'rs S Borrel 5 11 S J Burke
49 19 1	٥	THE NEXT WALTZ CITY IN SINGLE PORCE LLEEP 5 11 5 F Percett
7	SCP	DAVWELTEND (12) i// G R & Pacing O Norther 511 0 D J Mottons
:	0-	KRITE SUPERSTAR (268) (R 6 hope Livers) 7 11 0
5		SHIPONG EDGE (52) NG GONSTO MH EXCECT 4 11 0
::		CRYSIAL GIFT 1/25 L 11 12 12 12 13 A UNION 1 20 T
11	C3	CENERAL SAISC (141) (Brac Bachert) F \$5000t; \$10.7P Carbony
1 ::	30	NORTHERN CHARMER (10) The Eco; Hohat, Partnershot E Aston 4 10 7 P Noon
12		TRAMERING (USA) George Targ 11 (Tiest 2 10 7.
1.2		SEVIE DOUIVE Rest 110Net 2100

- 14 deckared - 82THWR: 5-2 Lethian Commoders: 3-1 Shining Edge. 4-1 Jories Cross. 11-2 Namely Boy. 6-1 Tire Neights, 10-1 Ray Up Dolly, 12-1 Rocketts Castle, 14-1 Genome James, 20-1 others 1995: Egress 6th 6-10-4 P Name 5-4 (Mrs Ne Revency) 13 ray 1995: Egress 6th 6-10-4 P Name 5-4 (Mrs Ne Revency) 13 ray

1995: "Onthing to 12.1 Purple 13-1 Puts S Bernish 13 run
PORM GUIDE

Ton, Tobbid may have missed out to Richard Dunkoody on the One Main ride but he had the car' here on JOCKS CROSS over the Dunkoody-partnered Lockson Commodore from the same Greatoke yard. On his threeding, Lothan Commodore should come into his own when put mer furner broadse his but-brother Lothan Pool von at modardy-ahalt before his staying chase whis for Lim Lungo. Jocks Cross jumps hurtles for the first time after two time bumper mas here against decent sorts in Direct Route and Wagslad. He is also on better ground today and Direct Route's hurdles win last week is a zonner to his chance. Shanling Edge was modest on the level but a game sunner from stockertace Dann Mission on his hurdles debut at Wetharby. Well bearen at Chettenham and Newcartle since, he holds a more obvious chance in this league and the stable is in the form. Kilbarly Boy, a had-brother to writing chase one More Dearm, has played a comment part in the Dumpers, while General Bindo has joined Ferdy Murphy after but modes that the suntile shanlings in lifetinal an August, John O'Neil man from newcomes, firm Heights, a juvenile wither for Robert Amstrong but a modest son last summer, and Hey Up Dolfy. A seven-fung wither for Jack Berry and related to a hurtles wither.

#### 1.30 HADRIAN'S WALL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 edded 3m Penalty Value £3,321 LIST OF THE GREY MORK SAI (C) AND DUT & RETURNS 121

12	5250%	2500 42 (255) 4 U Promson 4 Promson 12 11 3.	
3	2500-	BUSING ALDING (242) Starley Storm F Lights 7 11 3	D J Karender (5
l 2	723.340	CHILE RICHARDS (11) HESPITAC VARIABOTE LIC (LIS L'AMOTEON 9	113_5 McNei
5		CUSH SUPREME Poor: Opera F March T 113	
ļē	1717-7	DORLIN CASILE (6) AND IIC GREEL LITED & 113	T Rec
Į÷		CO SELY (6) Fernescr breed: 8 3 sor 10 113	
lε		LALDER SQUARE (5) 455 FOCOS FOLTO 11 3	
1 3		MER MOSON (1049) The BOST. St. (1172 - 2014 9 11 3	
:0	25-533	RIDOR FELLOW (27) -bran Water J Water 7 11 3	A \$ 5cdti
1 11	1272-25	WAPIN DE LAUGERE IFRO (427) ALS SECRES NOS SECRES 9 11 3	
ľΞ	355	YOUNG DUBLINER (39) (BF) John & Correct Mrs J Brown 7 11 3	
1 3		COLD PREEDY (11) Corte: Providers LE. S Return T 10 12	
		SAGARO BELLE 15 - Coun - Cou 10 10 12 .	
		- 14 declared -	
29	TING 4-6	The Grey Mook, 7-1 Yulph De Laugere, 8-1 Tucker Fedors, Young Dub	finer, 15-1 Chall
Rec	kerds, Go	Saly, Dortin Castle, 20-1 others	
19	# ET# 5	Carer 6 11 3 P Wen 6-1 Min M Review 12 ran	

		Podder a prim			
11	3-	EBBH NAS (29) S 11 2 5 2 2 5 Tate 7			
ī	007.	FARMOST (32) S. Las Present 3 G.E. C. Michiel G.			
	000	ALISTARS DANCER (25) " 2.5 177			
12	w-	ALISHOR DOCKER (23)			
1,4	0-	MORTHERN MIRACLE (74) C AL SEC Wind 8			
DETT	WC- 9.4	Assastra. 5-2 Farmost, 6-1 Rizal. 8-1 Double-O-Seven, 13-			
2 - 1	Car	now, Morthern Misacie, 12-1 Desert Water, 1-1 others			
1 725	MAS DA	ICH. INDUCTION INSCR., 12-2 DESC., ITALIA 14-2 OCIO-			
্	45	NEWPORT HANDICAP (CLASS E) 54.500 added 1m 2f			
<b>.</b> 5.	<b>T</b> 2	orlded 1m Of			
1 0	0500-Z	DIGPAST (14) (C) F C S., (ST E COC S Senders 6			
- 5	- 201 -	ALMENDRAM ILD CO EF ULL SE MARRIED LL			
•		_D Gentles (5:1			
3 3	anne A	RED OF VISION (10, 10) WELL AND THE PROPERTY AND THE PROP			
2 2		Hener 4			
		AMESONE POWER TO TOTAL TOTAL A CARLS			
	W 6	MARKONE PORTER TO THE TOTAL OF THE PARTY			
5 3	150Ge-	NOBLE NEPTUNE 1841 .: VAST - FE G Carter 2			
6 !	2271.3	TOTAL RACH (12) (CD: 7 7 7 4 5 12 3 525 3			
		- 6 decimed -			
-	7.1	Depart, 5-2 Almetican, 4-1 Field Of Vision, 7-1 Total Rech,			
15-2 American Power, 9-1 Notice Newtone					
15-2	-	G LAME: A.T LAND : MANUAL			
-	4	SHANKLIN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,450			

2.45 COWES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,450 added 6f

Edizio Bouca e	~= · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1 One PLACETAF (2016: Vesse 111.	3.45 SHANKLIN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,450
	2 AE SHANKLIN HANDICAP (CLASS U) 15,450
CONVERT GUEST (14) V Carrol 50 _PP Marphy (5) S	3.43 added 3Y0 1m
TO THE TAX A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF T	(A) AUTUM PROJECT COURS 3" Mi Telecon 3
24360 MUSIC MESTRESS (7) (C): Years if JF Son 1	3 006-2 ETLANDS (14, CO), See 3R Comme S
	3 7-2-6 12 13 15 5 - 2-7 5 5
7 - SOLAT D WEISH MELDOY OF FEMALES	Som Pere Lopez 6
_ 7 decirent -	THE PARTY OF THE P
SETTING: 11-8 Bens Of Halland, 7-2 Convent Grest, 4-1 Mass Offset, 12-	S THE APPROXIMENTS ARROWS AND TO SEE THE SEE
SETTING: 11-8 Bens Of Halland. 7-2 College Contract	
2 Manie Micross. 8-1 Weigh Meloch, 12-1 Program, Quantieses	Trans.
T	The second state of the second
	1775-5 SCHOOLS (13) Province 11
A PARACETTH CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E)	* LETON SOMEREN PERKE 2: 4 1 Septemble Se

2.15 YARMOUTH CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E)	S Drawn (7.2)
1 Water Butters (4) (5) 12 (59)	- 8 declared - serrence 11-4 December 7-2 B.Sadde, 3-2 Raws, 3-1 Severeign Proce 5-
CROSS TALK SAFE FOR THE AND A STATE OF	S Appropriate Administration 13-2 Department 13-2 others

# FORM GUIDE THE GREY MONK, one of the most exclude jumpers in the north, cannot be opposed even nor the double penany for wins at Air and on this course. The 12th concession can be trushed adule with the opposition being no great shakes and his front-numing, hold jumping style should see them off with little difficulty at this first attempt at three miles. Young Dubbliner might have given be Detector a race had he not fallen at the last at Newceste in November. This varying pointer has since flopped at Doncaster but should make the frame today. Dortlin Castle carron be trusted after firing at Kelso, but likely custacts are lists corner Castle Supreme and Mrs. Bramati's Vidpin de Laugero. Selection: The GREY Mona.

2.00 NAWORTH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,200 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,584 2.77 IF Penarty Value 24,004

1. ARTHORD (ISA) (38 1/2 of 1/2 of 1/2 of 2 of 2 of 3 1/2 of 1/

Zuboon will have to stay well to best him, Carley Lad showed nothing on three runs test season but this stoutity bred chasing sort might just be the sort to do better, while Dominios Ringi has shown some ability and will be all the filter for a recent third to ismeno at Townester, Jabanoot has given signs of better to come but it would be safer to see this as-Michael Stoutia horse confirm the promise before siding with him. Selections SANTA CONCERTO

## 2.30 HAYTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,500 added 3m Penelty Value £7,185

FLIATO	WIND FORCE (38) (C) (D) U N G Moreson) G Richards 11 12 0 A Dobbbin
131F-55	NORTHANTS (38) (D) (C 8 Renneson) W Stony 10 11 2
3114F6	FRONT LINE (20) U P McMarasi J J D'Neil 9 10 10 M Dwyer
11-11-2	BENERAL WOLFE (45) (D) (BF) (The Winning Line) T Forset 7 10 5 R Dutwoods
13-2LP6	STRONG SOUND (11) (D) (N/s H Scotts) P Cheestroop 9 10 3
251F-U1	LIE DETECTOR (49) (D) (Raymon: Anderson Green) C Parier 8 10 0
10412 B	RICHARDSON (31) IR Haggest J Proderate 9 (0 0
1-1-4-0	BARBLEY REBELE (6) (D.W. Wichers) O Ministry 11 10 0
1311105	ADRIEN (FR) (33) (Miss K S Bramaili Mrs S Bramzi 8 20 0

Manthum: 10st, The handicap weight: Richardson 9st 12b, Burney Rubble 9st 11b. Authen 9st 3ab. BETTMR: 6-4 General Worfs, 9-2 Lie Detector, 5-1 Front Line, 6-1 Ward Force, 8-1 Northauts, Richard son, 10-1 Burney Richard, 16-1 Strong Sould, 20-1 Adries 1995: Ceuch Boy 9 10 0 8 Storey 12-1 (Mrs J 0 Goodfelos); 12 ran

GENERAL WOLFE rates as another likely future star for the Tim Forster yard after mudd, wins at Ledester and Wrodester last season. Such was his showing on his reappearance at Chepstow when beaten had-a-length by Greenial Tate Away that the handicapper nudged his ribing up an estra 5lb. Beaten at Chepstow because of lack of a recent outing, General World should relief this true stayers' track and Greenial Tate Away went close to land the Matimay Chase at Sandown ned time out. Northants is 100 good a horse to dismiss out of hand and he rises a danger after two hurder runs this ferm. He promised plently last term with novince chase wins at Haydock and Nevocastie and he has won here three times over hurdes. Richardson was a similarly promising sort last term and he may do better than Lie Detrector, who may find this task in the ground a belief to demanding for him. Front Lipse stays all day and has been asked two stirl questions this term at Werbierby and Haydock. He won last season's four-index at Chetariham when wearing birthers and as back with the aid for the first time this term.

## 2 00 BRAMPTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,500 added

Ľ	<u> </u>	2m 1f Penalty Value £5,109
1	3110-00	BOLDEN HELLO (S) (D) (G E Shouler) M H Eastert; 5 11 10
2	31.3P-14	MR WOODCOCK (90) (BF) (P A lyter) Mrs M Reveley 11 11 7 P Niven
3	DB0402	URBAN DANCING DISA) (6) (Royald McCulloch) B Elson 7 10 10
Ł	0124/2-	CARTEMESS CLOUD (384) (Raymond Ancerson Green: C Parter 8 10 5 B Storey
		_ A declared _

FORM GUIDE

Only lour go here with GOLDEN HELLO holding a winning chance, though Mr Woodcock rates a big danger with the stable going so well after the freeze-up. Winner of three races last season, Golden Hello has some pace about him and led for much of the tip in the William Hell Hardle at Sandown on his reappearance. He also ran better than his eights to Frickley at Wethshoy last week suggests and the chances are he will have too much speed for this opposition. For the last three seasons Mr Woodcock has been over fences but he was a smart hurder on his day and, while the tip is really too sharp for him, a good showing can be expected. Selection: GOLDEN HELLO

## 3.30 LANERCOST HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,850 added 2m Penalty Value £2,913

1	230.32	MONTRAVE (11) (D St Clast) P Mortest 11 20	
2	123P24-	KANNIDABIL (200) (D) (Ned McAndrews) N Tarker 9 11 7	_R Dunwood
3	F-41212	AUDICIAL FIELD (S) (BF) (MIS E.E. Nescourc) N Trolder 7 11 3.	M Duye
c	13306F;	ISLAND GALE (629) John McCune! O McCure 11 11 1	Richard Goes
5	2-65235	MRIST BE MAGICAL (USA) (33) (Paul Bradie; P Bradie; 8 11 0	B Handing (3
6	41/213	ALLEHAC NORES (57) (BF) (Westerly, Racing Bureau 24) M Hammono 7 1	0 12 P Nive
7	/652-4P	CHILL WIND (27) IE H Daicyl N Bycroft 7 10 12	R Gerritt
В	F163-1	STORMY CORAL (67) (Raymond Ancesson Green: C Pariet 6 10 11	
9	60433-F	PORT IN A STORM (7) Cloth Dove Lie M Hammon: 7 10 9	& C Bonner (S
20	233204-	FUNDAY OLD SAME (265) (David McCure! O McCure 9 10 8	A Thornto
11	6025/66	MACCONACRE [12] (M C J Surley) M Docs 9 10 0	
12	653223	DOXFORD HUT (29) (BF) MY McKeownt W McKeows 12 10 0	G Caba (7
		- 12 declared -	
Ma	THE WAR	ht: 10st. True handleen wearith: Mercanathie 9st 10th, Dowland Hirt 9st 6	'h

Mismum weight 10st frue handloop weights: Moscanishe 9s; 10s., Doctort him 9s; 5s. BETTIME: 9-4 Judicial Fletd, 5-1 Stormy Coral, 7-2 Mostanes, 8-1 Femay Old Game, 10-1 Namedabb. Port in A Storm, Altimac Norms, 12-1 Doctord Net, 26-2 others 1995: The Lonyman 7 10 7 I Reed 8-1 (L Lungo: 11 an

1995: The Lonyman 7 10 7 I Reco 8-1 (L Lungo: 11 an FORM GUIDE MONTRAVE has looked a decent nounce and may have the legs of Stormy Coral over this trip. Morrowe pleased with his showing against The Grey Monk at Ayr and has caught only in the closing stages at Newbastle next time when a bunder at the last stopped him from beating Five To Seven. He is burdened with 11st 10th in this hampinap but looks up to the task. Stormy Coral would be a sinp at the weights if the race was over further. Despire the lack of recent action, he came in for head, market support at Ayr in November and was always going like a remner. Produced to beat Forbacien Time at the final fence, he is asked to do it again over the half-mile singued him, Judicial Field couldn't contain Sonse Mo at Neso last week and this task may also be begard fort, while stablemate Kanndabil's last four wins have been in claimers and lock of a recent run may beat him, even with Richard Durwoody on his side. Selections Micharde.

#### 4.00 MILTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m

ᆫ		4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,879
1	111-FUF	WILLS TO MAR (32) (BJ Panarson: M Foot Line S 11 13 R Durwood
2		TRUMP (38) (CD) (Reymono Arcerson Green C Paner 7 11 7
3		AMAZON EXPRESS (12) (T II) thans: P Bones 7: 11.4
-	-242-22	ASSET OF FURNISSS (54) (D) (BF) Lord Courters' GREETE 12 11 2 A Double
5	1252 - 2	FERRIESS WORDER (104) Water A Davies, No V Review 5 10 15 Prince
6	13024	DANCING HOLLY (1,068) (R S Victor, R Wicce 9 10 9
7	03320-2	DOCKMASTER (54) U O GORDON: N' 55 N' 11 - 221 5 1C 5
8		SANSOOL (260) (CD) (A 17-205- A 77-215-10-10-7
9		MCHOLAS PLANT (21) (D) Arg V F Fazeror J Good 7 10 4 A West (
10		MARSH'S LAW (12) (No York, Parage O Servar 9 10 3
		MHAAD (USA) (33) (D) 14/21/2 O'Table 1 1: 5737 6 10 3 E Callagram (
		- 11 decimed -

#### SETTENC: 3-1 Fearless Wooder, 7-2 Abbot Of Famess, 5-1 Trump, 8-1 Amazon Express, Rhand, Dock-master, 10-1 Wile Televar, 12-1 others 1995; Sarson 9 11 0 M Moloney 7-1 (4 Whiters, 11 far

#### RESULTS

**FONTWELL** 

1.15: 1. RUTARA (A P McCoy) 100-30: 2. Mendal Cavalier 20-1; 3. Perhaps 1-2 by. 11 ran. 12, rk. U Enzards. Yethe 23.60: £1.30. £1.70. £1.10. Dea Forecast £21.00. CSF: £55.08. Tro: £4.20. 1.46: 1. Miss Deskin 18 Powel 12-1, 2. Great Stuff 20-1; 3. Cavina 4-5 fax. 10 ran. 31::, 30. IR Budden, Totat: £12.40: £2.10. £3.60. £1.10. DF: £97 90 CSF: £180.38. Tro: £63.00. 2.15: 1. RAGS WAY IM A Enzerat/9-2: 2. Sugar Hill 15-2; 3. Policemans Pride 6-1, 10 ran. 7-2 tav Lance Amestora; fleti., 2-., dest. U Eczards/, Totat: £5.00: £1.90. £1.80. £1.90. £1.80. £1.90. £2.310. CSF. £36.71. 7nc: £38.00

2.45: 1. NAZZARO P Durwocen 9 4 fac. 2, Annio Chilose 14-1; 3, Andros Prince 12-2, 11 ran, 14, 10, 07 G M Tumen, Totes £2,50; £1,50; £2,40; £3,90; Duai Furecart £16,30; CSF; £31,06; Treest; £290,52; The

2309-90.
3.15: 1. SUPREME LADY U.F. You, 7.4
ta: 2. Oaths Rose 23.1; 3. Miss Brectonell
12-1. 16 ran. 6. 1". Mass Hinghi Tote:
22.50: E1.40, 56.40, £2.30. DF. £49.20
CSF: £51 28. Trac £97.10.

CSF: EST 28. That £97.10.

3.45: 1. SEVENFORT LAD (A) A Fargeriative's 2. Teatrader I 10-1: 2. Rivers End 20-1: 8 ran. 8-11 las Supenor Pask. 20, dist. 7. Casey). Tote: £2.50. E1-90. £1.30. £2.40. OF: £9.50. CSF: £2.55. That £17.20. That Rather, The booth musicials. 4.15: 1. FRESH CHOICE (DOSALAS). 25-1: 2. Le Glano 20-1: 3. Northern Village 9-1: 17 ran. 11-4 lay Tame For A Purter Scritt. 2. Rousel. Fote: £9.80: £2.90. £2.20. £2.70. £4.10. DF: £189.50 CSF. £199.53. Fresat. £1, 174.93. That £50.75.

Placepot: £44.20. Quadpot: £17.90. Place 6: £50.57. Place 5: £44.09

#### SOUTHWELL

SOUTHWELL

1.05: 1. BENIAMINS LAW () Qure) 7-4
fat; 2. Ulac Rain 6-1; 3. The Mostral 201. 10 ran. 5, 3-; U Perkenge, Fote: 53-20;
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ing was abendoned due to fog.

★ THE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing Results 6839 - 111 171

Commentary 0839 - 111 175 



## sport

## If Carling reads between the lines of what Rowell has been saying from the South Africa game onwards, he must be a worried man

This is the best week of the rugby year - the few days leading up to the Five Nations. After all, it is not of It seems such a long time since he sure, the preparation which has served so well in Paris in recent years. There are two questions this raisten that grown men in pubs and clubs can get away with a breathless discussion about the shape of Paul Graysoo's thighs, is it?

Along with the oew stand-off's upper legs (are they chunky enough for the demands of international look a Welshman calmly in the eye. rughy?), we have the questions of Matthew Dawson's wrists (strong enough for a quicker service than Kyran Bracken?) and Rory Uoderwood's heart is it still in the

But this year, instead of wondering only which players will go through the routine of slaughtering the rest of Europe, the England sup-porter has a couple of extra prob-lems to chew over – he (or she) is with the ball – at least we do know that the Martins Bayfield and John-son will win it. It is not, you may be

has felt like this (actually it is only about eight years) that it is raising the ghosts of the bad old days - the ones when David Duckham would wait a whole season for a single pass, and when oo Englishman could

Here we are, five days from going to the awesome Parc des Princes to play a French side who have just stood toe-to-toe with the All Blacks and we have a new back row, two virtual oovices at half-back, another at hooker, the best scrummager playing out of position and total mystery about what England are going to do

es - has Jack Rowell gone completely

potty? And, despite those years of unprecedented glory, is Will Carling the right man to take and execute tactical decisions oo the field? Rowell's defence is relatively straightforward. He says that he in-

herited a settled, if slightly ageing, England side less than two years before a World Cup, made the pragmatic decision to keep it together for the World Cup campaign, and as a result was not able to effect the changes he wanted at the pace he wanted - he has had to do it all at once. Which is perfect common sense, and would be fine if it were the whole story.

It is, however, absolutely no jus-



tification for saying one day Mike Catt was the stand-off he wanted to structure England's game (pre South Africa) and the next saying he had been completely wrong and that Graysoo was the answer. And it is

no justification for saying that England needed a genuine open-side in Andy Robinson one day (pre South Africa), and going back on that with a new-boy in the position in Lawrence Dallaglio the cext. All that shilly-shallying does is betray an uncertainty of indgement in the first place.

That uncertainty has, naturally, wormed its way on to the pitch where England appeared hesitant, inept and directionless in their autumn games. Their ability to run the ball from the wrong places into the wrong places, particularly against Western Samoa, was truly shocking and the captain has to take some re-

down, then he does not have the necessary vision for the job. If he has oot been, and either did not or could not prevent it, then he is not carrying the necessary clout. The same applies to the pace with which the ball is recycled, and the obsession with taking it into tackles rather than keeping it alive.

Poor Carling, he must have hoped that the dredging of his relationships through public scrutiny had just about come to an end. But my guess is that if England again look anaemic on Saturday he will have to go through it all once more as his relationship both with Rowell and with his players will become one of

the themes of the season. If Carling reads between the lines

been continually clogged up with of what Rowell has been saying from back-row forwards slowing the ball the South Africa game onwards, he must be a worried man. All that talk of players' responsibilities, the difference between what is happening in training and in a match, about who should be running the game on the pitch - it is hardly a vote of confidence in the captain, is it?

It is not as if there is no alternative, either in position or character. Phil de Glanville plays the sort of in-stinctive rugby England should aspire to day-in, day-out aloogside Jeremy Guscott, and with John Hall. has been instrumental in persuading Bath not just to adopt, but actively to embrace it. The cootrast is not a comforting one, even for England's most successful captain of

Alan Watkins is on holiday

#### FIVE NATIONS COUNTDOWN: England's search for long-term success could be undermined by a thirst for victory, says Steve Bale

## French to provide the acid test

t has become commooplace at this time of the year to demote the worth of the Five Natioos' Championship hecause of its World Cup context hut, as those of us enamoured of this annual imbroglio keep saying, the great cootest of the home countries and France has more, not less, significance because of the quadrennial

rugbyfest. Yes, we all know that England and the rest would henefit from, and therefore need, greater exposure to the different rigours of confronting the game's southern-hemisphere giants, and it can certainly be persuasively argued that the championship alone is inadequate. Oo the other hand, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have now set up their own version so we up at this end of the world must have been doing something right.

But however much you argue that, being immediately post-World Cup, the 1996 Five Nations which commences on Saturday is the start of the road to the next, at the same time it stands alone as it does every year as the sporting event that hrightens our winter and national stadiums. The 10-game championship begins with France v England in Paris and Scotland v Ireland in Duhlin

and by the time it eods oo 16 popular with the English rank March more than 600,000 and file at Sunday's chaotic people will have watched. What with all the stuff we

constantly hear about rugby union's ABCI viewers, is it any 1996 Five Nations fixtures

20 Jan France v England (Parc des Princes); iretand v Scotland (Lansdowne Road). 3 Feb England v Woles (Twickenham); Scotland v France (Murrayfield). Scotland v France (Murrayfield).
17 Feb France v Ireland (Parc des Princes);
Wales v Scotland (Cardif Arms Park).
2 Mar Ireland v Wales (Larsdowne Road);
Scotland v England (Murrayfield).
16 Mar England v Ireland (Twotenham);
Wales v France (Cardiff Arms Park). 1995 final table

1996 results: 21. Jun; France 21. Wales 9; Ivo-land 8 England 20. 4 Feb England 31 France 10; Scotland 26 Februard 12. 18 Feb France 21. Scot-land 23; Wales 9 England 23. 4 Mar Instand France 25; Scotland 26 Wales 13. 18 Mar England 124 Scotland 12: Wales 12 beland 16.

wonder that Sky - whose pro-prietor, Rupert Murdoch, is vision rights? The ante, so we are told, was recently upped last contract went for less than

At a time wheo rugby institutions oeed all the funds they can get to finance the oew professionalism which was so un-

Rugby Football Union general meeting in Birmingham, this is an irresistibly attractive offer. The RFU, by the way, has said it will insist oo a territorial element in any oew cootract.

For oow, though, the BBC carries on as it has since the year dot, and if the rugby is not always as good as programme producers might desire, the sense of occasioo and history which rival entrepreceurs such as Ross Turnbull would lose for ever - will be undiminished. As Will Carling, the England captain during eight championships, ooce put it, the Five Nations "has a magic and intensity all of its own and unless you have played in it or watched you don't uoderstand".

This is an implicit rebuke for Antipodeans and others who have tried to rubhish what goes already forking out £366m over 10 years for southern-hemisphere rugby – should be prepared to pay undreamed-of sums for the Five Nations tele-unday. It will have to be. It will have to be the regretative of this name. be the fascination of this game and the international season from £175m to £250m. The that follows to see whether Carling's leadership can do anything

of younger players in his team. Given that he was always previously surrounded by senior in many cases more senior than



England expects: Will Carling celebrates the 1995 Grand Slam but is now facing the greatest challenge of his captaincy

him - lieutenants, this seizure New Zealand of 1995 are any of responsibility can be seen as the greatest challenge of his entire captaincy, and if he fails his England days will be

As for long-term planning, the ahead England, or particularly look, the only thing that teods to matter in the Five Nations is winning the next match. That said, if Laurie Mains's

example, the 1999 World Cup should effectively start here. Mains coached the All Blacks to what at the time were some of the more humiliating defeats in their history, hut when it trouble is that no matter how far came to the World Cup proved it had been for the greater ought to have woo it.
Whether the Five Nations are

willing to be as stoically patient

England manager did pose the question earlier this season whether English rugby would a New Zealand-style process taking shape. Wales miss out on the first championship Saturday accept a number of defeats in the wider interest. Rowell will have his answer if and when England lose either in Paris or subsequently, and if the reaction to the pre-Christmas perforand Western Samoa is anything to go by it will probably

e no. As ever, however, the first Grand Chelem in nine Elsewhere we can already see championship will in essence years.

hut the new coach, Kevin Bowring, has already given himself a new team by his selection to play Italy tonight. Ireland and Scotland also have new coaches, though the mood in the former

depend on how well France perform, and initially on how far they exorcised their demons by beating the perfidious English in the third-place World Cup match in Pretoria. If they have, they have the wit, flair, imaginatioo and even these days common sense - all the things more optimistic than in the they "aspire" - not only to win latter. Perhaps it was ever thus. on Saturday but go on to their

Photograph: Dylan Martinez/Reuter

## **Questions of Sport**



## £40,000 to be won

In Saturday's paper, there was a Questions Of Sport multi-choice scratch card which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000.

You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out. The card contains eight games so you can play daily through to Friday 19

And as well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator

#### **HOW TO PLAY**

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Tuesday 16 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Thirteen, either A,B or C in the Q13 column then repeat for Q14 and Q15.

THE OUESTIONS Q13 How far is a half-marathon, to the nearest mile? A: 10 miles B: 13 miles

014 Who is Britain's most ssful Olympic rower? A: Steve Redgrave **B:** Matthew Pinsent

C: Daley Thompson

015 For which team did Ronni Radford score the historic goal that knocked Newcastle United out of the FA Cup in 1972? A: Stockport County B: Yeovil Town

**RULES AS PREVIOUSLY** PUBLISHED

C: Hereford United

#### prize of £5,000.

Scratch off ONE letter only for each question. If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000

accumulator prize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by revealing an

HOW TO CLAIM

IMPORTANT

IF you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of the newsagents listed below. For prizes over £5, phone 01254 683666 (Insh Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm Monday to Saturday. Participating newsagents: WH Smith, John Menzies, Forbuoys, Martins/RS McColl, Dillons, Gibbs, Macs,

Paperchain - Village Store, Paper If you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions Of Sport claims, PO Box 60, Burnley. 8810 1SH.

Supercigs, United News Shops, Star

News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News,

SOME OF OUR WINNERS SO FAR: Marion Wilkinson from Leeds, Yorkshire - £1000 Mary Pattinson from Penworthan, Lancashire - £500

Jeremy Bennallackhart from Chiswick, London - £250 John Howley from Leeds, Yorkshire - £100 Paul Gamer from Bangor, Gwynedd - £50 Susan Baker

from London - £25 Stephen Insley from Lancaster, Lancashire - £10

#### QUESTIONS OF SPORT **CLAIM COUPON**

Tuesday 16 January 1996 To claim prizes up to £5 DO NOT PHONE

Take this coupon to any of the participating Newsagents listed who will give you your prize instantly.

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To the Newsagent: Please check the card is correct and give the reader the value of their prize. Send this coupon or details supplied on plain paper together with the winning card to your head office for

## Junior clubs appeal for unity

There are faint sounds of unity emerging from beneath the rubble of Sunday's Special General Meeting of the Rughy Foothall Uoion in Birmingham, which left the game in apparent disarray and in very real danger of being split wide opeo oo the professionalism debate.

Delegates ended up oeither debating nor voting on the RFU Commission report into profes-sionalism, and there is now a possibility of the top clubs — a minority in the RFU — setting off down their own path to the paid ranks and leaving the rest - the majority of clubs — to feod for themselves on the bumpy road of amateurism.

But last night there was a plea to the senior clubs from a schoolteacher, Dave Hiles. He is a lifelong member of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers and it was his intervention which forced the RFU to reconvene the SGM within six weeks to discuss the Commission Report.

Hiles, who has beeo secretary of Pinner and Grammarians

Sunday's dissenters are not seeking a schism, reports David Llewellyn

said: "I would say to the senior clubs that the meeting was not conclusive, we did not have time to debate the 40 points of the commission's report. So doo't give a knee-jerk reaction to it and go your own way in the next four or five weeks. Wait and see

what the next meeting decides."
Hiles, who typifies the grassroots of the game by still playing rugby at the age of 57, explained:
"I fear a schism and I do not want the tail, the junior clubs, wagging the dog, the senior clubs. Anyway, there is no reversing the way they have gone. But after yesterday's meeting it was suggested to me that, since the senior clubs have their own organisation, then the junior clubs ought to have their own as well. But that to me would be the end of every-

thing. A schism would be dev-astating for the game. "I back professionalism. I think the game has to move for- in the commission report that

(Middlesex Two) for 19 years, ward and we have to accept it. But we have to have the RFU back in the driving seat, making the initiatives rather than re-

> come from elsewhere." Vic Jenkins, secretary of Ivel Barbarians, who play in Somerset Two, echoed Hiles: "I wouldn't say there is a strong feeling about amateurism and professionalism in our club. but this is the higgest thing that has happened to rugby in the last 100 years, and we all feel that clubs should be allowed to vote on the recommendations contained in the report.

> "I do not foresee a schism in the game. I believe there will be professionals and amateurs under the same umbrella. The meeting was not about professionalism, it was simply about democracy. About clubs being illowed to vote and having a say in their game. There are things

people have to be careful about. There is a lot of money coming into the game and the grassroots of rugby must ensure that it is

There is no anger or indignation in Tunbridge Wells, either. where club chairman David Corspooding to them when they ry -- father of the Bristol backrow. Martin - said: "It would appear that there are two camps, that there would seem to be a groundswell for people who don't want things to change. Yet

clearly at the top things have already changed and we at Tunbridge Wells certainly think it is wrong to put any brake oo it at this stage. People have suggested we go back to how things were, but as far as I am concerned we don't have anything to go back to."

Despite his impressions after the meeting, Corry is optimistic about the outcome. "I would hone that both camps could be united, because as far as the future of the game is concerned I would firmly be of the view that the game has to be administered by one body and one body only.

## Young Wales begin a game of patience

If this sounds like a repeating record, it is because every Wales coach says what follows. Yes-terday both Kevin Bowring and Allan Lewis, coach and assistant, pleaded for patience wheo their team of infinite promise and infinite inexperience play Italy at

Cardiff Arms Park tonight. The trouble is that patience, whether it be from those who attend the Arms Park or the Welsh Rugby Union itself in its attitude to oational coaches, has not been a ready virtue. Ask Tony Gray, John Ryan, Ron Waldron or Alan Davies. Or even Alex Evans, who went home to Australia thinking the world of Welsh rugby's potential but the

worst of some of its supporters. In keeping with the spirit of Bowring's request, however, if ever there was a time for patience this is it. Provided a team containing five oew caps and a list of others with only a handful can get through this match and then this season without suf-

Steve Bale looks at the task facing the Principality against improving Italy tonight

recent predecessors, there is every prospect of a bright future. Alas for Wales, it is a big proviso. The Italians proved them-

selves only 10 days ago - when they scored four tries to one in beating Scotland 29-17 in a game that was a full international in all but name - to be worthy opponents, worthier even than the side who caused Wales great inconvenience in the World Cup qualifier in Cardiff 15 months ago. The Welsh, beld 1-1 in tries,

were relieved to win 29-19. As Bowring is a new coach, albeit a professional one, he is pleading for patience for himself as much as his team. "It's gomg to take time," he said - and as he has been appointed for four years he perhaps has more than some of his forerunners. His ambition for "more expan-

fering the indignities of various sive, dynamic and expressive" rugby is curiously reminiscent of Jack Rowell's with England and Bowring has picked a team who

could hardly play it otherwise. Thus a heavy responsibility falls oo Arwel Thomas, 21, the oew outside-half carrying the Jooathan Davies millstone to bring his backs into play far more thao is Neil Jenkins's wont for Wales, if only oo the basis that as Thomas's place-kicking cannot hope to compare with the absent Jenkins's Wales had better

get on with scoring some tries. Would that it were so simple. Tooight's match is of incalculable importance to Italy in their campaign to turn the Five Nations into Six. "We know the subject is under debate," their captain, Massimo Cuttitta, said, and if his team act accordingly the Weish youngsters will find this taste of Test rugby less palatable than they do in the posters advertising the match in the Principality.

Apparently they enjoy "eating

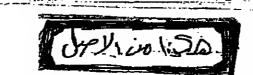
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Italians" but a cautionary word from Allan Lewis indicates otherwise. "The gap between Wales and Italy is closing rapidly," he said. "We will see if it still exists. I hope the public realise how big a challenge it is going to be for these young players. I would have been terrified at their age but they are all quite relaxed.

DUIL LINEY ARE ALL QUILLE TRIAXED.

And ready to tuck in?

WALES (v Ruly, beright, Gordiff; J Thornace I
Beaus doo't Lianelly, L. Davings Divastit. M Wisto, W Proctor Dooth Lianelly, A Thornac (Bristo), A Hoore; A Lends, J Hamphoyer (all Caroff,
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## Ring at second attempt

Rugby Union PAUL STEPHENS

West Hartlepool have per-suaded Cardiff's Mark Ring to join them as player-coach after three months of negotiations. Ring, 33, who won the last of 32 caps for Wales against Australia in 1991, has been playing centre this season but is expected to appear at outside-balf for West, one of their problem positions in a troubled campaign which after 10 successive defeats,

looks certain to end in relegation. Ring signed a registration form for West Hardepool in November, then changed his mind when Cardiff offered him improved terms. But Ring is attracted to the coaching and de-velopment opportunities at West.

He hopes to emulate his close friend Paul Turner, who took Sale to promotion in 1994 and bas turned them into an attractive and effective First Division team, with every chance of competing in next autumn's Heineken European Cup.

West have no game this weekend, but Ring will take charge of the squad as they prepare for their Pilkington Cup fifth-round tie against Coventry at Brierton Lane on Saturday week. Should West win, Ring will be eligible for the quarter-finals on 24 February and for league rugby in the re-arranged First Division match with Bristol on 9 March.

Ring's arrival on a three-year contract signals the departure of Barry Forster after only six months of a two-year contract as director of rugby. Forster replaced Barry Taylor, who left after an acrimonious dispute midway through last season.

Leeds have signed Phil Davies, the Lianelli and Wales forward, on a three-year contract as director of rugby. Davies, who had signed registration forms with Harlequins, will finish the season at Llanelli.

Alan Sugar, the Tottenbam Hotspur FC chairman, is reported to have had preliminary talks about huying a stake in Wasps. The club chairman, Sir Pat Lowry, said: "When we have an announcement to make it will be done in the proper, formal way."

> TODAY'S NUMBER

> > 613

The number of days that Ajax went undefeated before losing at Willem II Tilburg on Sunday. The 1-0 defeat ended the European champions' run of 52 league games unbeaten.

## West sign Malcolm risks future with 'racist' allegation

Derek Pringle on the fast bowler's Outspoken criticism of Ray Illingworth

Devon Malcotm is likely to face harsh disciplinary reaction after accusing Raymond Illingworth. the England manager, of de-

stroying his confidence. In a newspaper interview pub-lished yesterday the England fast bowler described the current tour of South Africa as "the worst three months of my life", Malcolm, who returned to England before the start of the current series of one-day internationals, claimed he had been continually sworn at, picked on and hu-miliated by Illingworth, so much so that only the support of his team-mates had stopped him quitting the tour.

"All that ahusing was very unfair and no way to treat anybody." he was quoted as saying in the Daily Express. I have to ask: would this have happened if I had heen a white bowler! Illingworth spent yesterday beside the swimming pool and his only comment was: "I've enough on my plate over here to worry about him."

Malcolm, whose comments are a flagrant breach of the terms of his tour contract, said last night that he had no regrets about making his row with Illingworth a race issue. "I only asked a question," he told BBC Radio Live. 'As the only black man, there were a lot of things I had ω do and the manager could have given me a lot more support.

"I was thrown in at the deep end at press conferences and things like that. I thought in the early stages that it would be the first two or three weeks of the tour and after that I could concentrate on cricket. "I thought that was the time

when if they were thinking forward, they would give me support, but that was when they



Viewpoints: Ray Illingworth and Devon Malcolm fail to see eye-to-eye in the nets

really arracked me, so I wondered what was going on."

Malcolm said he still hoped to continue his England career. despite his criticism of Illing-worth. I always live in hope."

he said. It is not unusual for disgruntled players to air their grievances about authority. For example, in 1983 Norman Cowans accused the then England captain, Boh Willis, of mistreatment, and was fined by the TCCB as a result. However, it is quite another thing for a player to imply he has been the victim of racism and Malcolm has probably called time on his England career.

It was this implication that brought an uncharacteristically rapid response from the culatd risk; one that may have his confidence was brutally threat England had hoped,

TCCB spokesman, Richard Little. "That is an offensive remark," Little said vesterday. We always pick the best possible players and take no account of any other element."

Moreover, the TCCB, having tried to dissuade Malcolm from hawking the story, appeared in little hurry to discipline him saying: "We will take any action we think is necessary in our own

What is not clear is why a mild-mannered man like Malcolm would take such a course of action, risking all in terms of his England career. For a selfconfessed team man, it is a hrash move, one which suggests he has either reached the end of his tether or has taken a calincluded the likelihood of Illingworth's contract not being extended when it comes up for renewal at the TCCB's Spring meeting, soon after England return from the World

Éither way, he must have weighed up the consequences as well as his chances of playing again for England, the likelihood of which now seems remote even by the TCCB's standards of optimism.

Apart from the early thrill in Soweto of meeting Nelson Mandela - who greeted him with the words; "I know you, you're the deystroyer" - Malcolm has not had a happy tour.

Long before his retreat behind sunglasses and Walkman,

Photograph: Clive Mason/Alisport

undermined after the England management claimed: "Without his bowling, his cricket is a nonentity." It was a clumsy and unthinking statement to make public, about any player, let alone a potential trump card like Malcolm, who was struggling for both fitness and con-

Mind you, his selection at the ige of 32, after minimal rehabilitation on a knee that had been operated on towards the end of last season, was always going to be something of a gamble. Both Atherton and llingworth knew this, and although be bowled reasonably well in the second Test at the Wanderers, taking six wickets in the match, he did not pose the rarely approaching the fear-some pace of old. And the way he hobbled about in the field suggested he was far from match fit despite his assurances

to the contrary. Malcolm, though, had aiready maintained, at least in pri-vale, that both his knee injury and the resulting lack of confi-dence (and hence lack of pace) were directly due to Illing-worth's and the bowling coach Peter Lever's attempts to change his action.

By getting him to stay more upright at delivery and to follow through straighter, Illing-worth had hoped to minimise his tendency to spear the ball down the leg-side. It was a change Malcolm was asked to implement after last summer's Oval Test, and one he says resulted in his knee injury, sustained against Essex, less than a week later at Chelmsford.

There is no doubt that Illingworth and Malcolm clashed on this tour, though some of the incidents seem to have been overdramatised. The England manager has a brusque manner that can easily be misinterpreted, and by all accounts Malcohn did not belp himself by being constantly late for the team hus and thus providing the Yorkshireman with plenty of ammunition for sniping.

Malcolm does not have a thick skin. International cricket is a tough husiness and although players may not always appreciate being told harsh truths, or being cursed, it is something that should be tolerated when used in the heat of the moment.

It was in just such a moment that Atherton famously read Malcolm the riot act back at the Oval in 1994, after be had again been soft with the South African tailenders, Although his transformation in the second innings, where he took nine wickets, has been widely attributed to the bouncer that casionally.

ton's rocket also played its part. Unfortunately, it is under-

stood that he was virtually sin-gled out by Illingworth, after England's three-day hammering in the final Test in Cape Town. Although the hatsmen were apparently reprimanded on block, it was Malcolm who unfairly received the brunt of the bowling criticism.
If this is true - a fact that will

no doubt be revealed in today's second instalment of the interview - then Illingworth is out of order, for poorly though Mal-colm bowled be was visibly trying. As be could not bowl at both ends, the other England bowlers were just as culpable. Derbyshire, who have been

quite vocal over Malcolm's treatment by the England setup, claim they are waiting to hear Illingworth's side of the stor, before acting, though it is understand they are in the process of writing to the TCCB. to complain over the manager's conduct towards Malcolm.

Derbyshire's former captain. Kim Barnett, said: "We're all disappointed really, disappointed in Devon's portrayal as someone of no intelligence and as a crick-

eting nonentity."
In a way, Derbyshire musi bear some responsibility for what has happened. Had they not molly-coddled their bowlers over the years, by giving them games off, they may just bave realised that international cricket is a hard game played in a far harder world than the one encased by the cosy rituals of countv cricket.

Malcolm's and Illingworth's antipathy to one another is probably not even based on ignorance or misunderstanding. It is probably just a bad case of naivety all round: that of a Yorkshireman living in a politically correct world and a cossetted player unaccustomed to baving his head bitten off oc-

#### Mixed fortunes for amateur challenge

**Rugby League** DAVE HADFIELD

West Hull and Thatto Heath. the two amateur sides to reach the fourth round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup - the first time two amateurs have achieved that feat in the same season bad mixed luck in the draw at

West Hull, who heat Highfield on Sunday, are at home to York while Thatto Heath, from St Helens, convincing winners at Chorley in the third round. are at Rochdale Hornets.

The holders. Wigan, start their hid for a ninth successive Challenge Cup at home against the Second Division side. Bramlev, whilst last year's beaten finalists, Leeds, are at Swinton.

The outstanding tie of the round, however, is Castleford against St Helens, beaten finalists in the Regal Trophy.

Super League games, start-ing in March, could be played with unlimited substitutions. Australia is keen to introduce a system allowing any number of changes from a bench of four. The referee John Connolly is

row's St Helens v London Broncos game. Connolly mis-counted the tackles in Halifax's game against Warrington on Sunday. allowing Halifax to score a crucial try on the seventh tackle. international defender, Teddy Popovic, 24, who is on trial from Sydney Series, Section 1, Featherm 1, 1974, New Many States, New Popovic, 24, who is on trial from Sydney Series, Section 1, Featherm 1, 1974, New Many States New Popovic, 24, who is on trial from Sydney Croatia.

Section 1, Featherm 2, Many States New Leads are to ask the referee States Operating New Popovic, 24, who is on trial from Sydney Croatia.

Leads are to ask the referee Paul Danson to look again at a to Heart. Feather be three 17 to 25 January.

## **Leeds land Borowka**

Football

ALAN NIXON

Leeds United last night se-cured the services of the 33vear-old German defender. Uli Borowka, on loan for the rest of the season after beating Manchester City to his signature. The Werder Bremen centre-back, who has six caps, will provide cover for suspended

Another new foreigner at Elland Road is the Australian

Paul Danson to look again at a troversial Intertoto Cup the frame of mind. The rearranged

game with West Ham which today. Their only fear is that a threatens to land Lee Chapman, who is on loan, with a threematch ban following an alleged elbowing incident.

Robbie Earle will appeal against his first red card with the elp of a lip reader. The Wimbledon captain was sent off for swearing at the referee, Mike Reed, at Bolton and faces a possible three-game ban. The professional lip reader

and can also play at left-back. He and break down the conversahas spent all of his career with tion between Earle, who had Bremen, but wants a move carlier had a penalty awarded against bim, and the referee. "1 did not actually say what the ref-eree thought I said," Earle said. "I certainly did not swear at him."

Premier League clubs are Leeds are to ask the referee expected to give Uefa's conthumbs down at a meeting date is Tuesday 13 February.

mass boycott of the 1996 event may bring more sanctions, af-ter Tottenham and Wimbledon were banned for a year from Europe's major tournaments for deliberately fielding weakened teams last summer. The clubs' appeals against the ban will be heard on 26 January.

The Scottish Football Association yesterday agreed to introduce television evidence in of next season. Dunfermline's request to

have tonight's Scottish First Division match at Morton postponed has been granted. The funeral of the Dunfermline captain, Norrie McCathie, who died last week, takes place today and the club felt their players would not be in the correct

#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Still seen by many as the finest female tennis player of all time, the former Margaret Smith began her record haul of 62 grand slam titles at the Australian championships of 1960, winning the first of her 24 singles titles. Three times Wimbledon champion, she retired in 1977.

ter leaving the circuit, trained for the ministry and was ordained in 1991, establishing the touring Margaret Court church, the Victory Life Centre. when invited. "When I do. "I became a Bom-Again

still world No 1," she said. "In ing a tom heart valve and told life, It was at that time I was introduced to healing through faith. I attended bible college mier of Western Australia. and the scriptures became my



medicine. I have not needed drugs for 12 years." She plays twice a week but

Her brother-in-law is the Pre-

Jon Culley

#### Blundell bound for IndyCar

**Motor racing** 

peal for

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Section 1

Mark Blundell is following the course set by Nigel Mansell by switching from Formula One to lndvCar racing. Blundell, not offered a Grand Prix drive for this season, has signed for the PacWest Racing Group to com-pete in the 1996 World Series.

The 29-year-old will drive alongside another ex-Formula One driver, Mauricio Gugelmin, after impressing during a test drive. Blundell will compete in the Ford Cosworth-powered cur at all 16 races in the series. | NBA: Coveland 59 Process 74.

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The Ski Facts

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John Regis will compete in two Indoor events next month: the Ricoh Tour international in Birmingham on 10 February and the Great Britain-France match in Glasgow a fortnight later. Along with Linford Christie and Colin Jackson, Regis boycotted British Athletic Federation meetings last season over a pay

CHINESE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Taipel) Flooks Men's singles Dong Jorg (Dria) T. R. Stde Malay 15-11 15-4, Women's singles-5 Susanti (hoton: bt Ye Zhapeng China, 11-5

An uyury to Glasgow's Dalley McHale has forced him to pull out of his fight against PJ Gallagher for the vacant Brosh super-featherweight title at Brackneil on Finday. Instead, Gallagher will meet Rakhim Mingaleyer, of Ukraine, for the vacant World Boxing Council international title on Finday and the fight with MicHale will take place in March.

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> bought the broadcasting rights, includ-ing radio, for the tournament which starts next month, but a dea, with the BBC was Next month, out a dept with the body was Sealed on Sunday.
>
> SMERFELD SHELD Underside: Som Australia
> SSA and LG 19 of Seath New Sunday Martin LG and
> 209. South Australia won by 122 mass, Photostal
> 109. South Australia won by 10 wickets.

Rain prevented p.a. in the first Under-19 Test between England and Zimbabwe at Harare, for the second day running. With only one day to go, the toursts are 181 for 4 (Alex Morrs 74, Andrew Flotto 55)

1940s, has tied aged . ? . Lee Marin, me time Manchesse Unit.

Study meetings loss season over a pay-dispute.

SASKATOON INDOOR GRAND PRIX (Sea-hatcheven, witners only) MEM: 60m: 2 5:27: (2016 5 face. 50m hardes: Diversit AS: 714. 400m: 1-Bouser 1:5: 37:40. 800m: 5 Ngcr. 2cr. 1mm: 50.06sec. Triple jump: Contac 485: 16 56m. Stud put: 1 5:00m: 1:00m: 1:00m. Pole wall: B Decrea 435: 5 50m. WOMEM: 60m. C Gardy 1:5: 11. 800m: 1:00m: 4:5: 2.6.52. 60m hardes: 11 Freemar 1:3m: 5.10sec.

Badminton

Basketball

The BBC have won their battle to broad-cast the Chicket World Cup on radio. Sw

Roots Langton, the former Blackburn Rovers and England singer who made 11 appearances for his country during

Angeleski Stati E. Carl S. St., Americal, 61. Hockey Service 80 immoras C. AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP (Bloemforten, SAt Group Et Siera Leons O Sessy 11, Autor 89 Burbera Faso 1 Ouerrangs 74.

Liselotte Neumann has won the LPGA Tournament of Champions, shooting a final-round two-under-gap 10 for an 11-stroke wiczty in Orlando, Flonda, Britan's Laura Davies finance jour third. 12 strokes behind the Saede. Colm Montgomer's, Europe's top golfer for the last three years, is near to with-draw from the Johnshe Waker Classic in Singapore, starting on Processor week, and the Heinelen Classic in Aus-tralia from 1-4 February, as his wife is due to give birth at the end of this week.

SPORTING DIGEST

(an Jennings, who recovered from wounds received in the Falklands War to win 38 England caps, and Tammy Miller, the England and Great Britain women's international, were yesterday named the Hockey Digest Players of the Year for 1995.

ice hockey NHL: New Jerse, 7 Dales 2: Anaham 6 Winnings 4: NV Rangers 3 St. Lz., s. 3 (ot); Cheego 5 Los Angeles 2; Colizado 4 Caigar, 4 (ct). Argeles 2, Courado 4 Cargen 4 (20).
BRITISH LEAGUE Première Dévisions Carolfi
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Football FA CUP THIRD ROUND REPLAYS Ottoran v Bernsley (7.45) Oxford Utd v McDeati (7.45) Port Vale v Crystal Palace (7.45) StreetStory v Folloam Senderland v Manchester Utd (7.45)

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And the Carlo Substantial Part (1997).

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V Better ILS, 149,57; 3.5 State (ILS), 147,73; 4
V Better ILS, 149,57; 3.5 State (ILS), 147,73; 4
V Better ILS, 149,57; 3.5 State (ILS), 142,72;
Met's and shape Canceled because of heavy
state and fag.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES Learner each Control tears . Claster; East Thul-ron v T-5,-7; Northwood v Weakistone.

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FA YOUTH CUP Their round propost received that 1.00 or 10.00 or 10. Rugby League

Other sports

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SNOCKER British to the total services.

Weston (Eng.) 5-3: R McDonald (Sco.) br. L Grif-fri (Eng.) 5-3: S Pettman (Eng.) br. J Reot (Eng.) 5-4: M Promer (Eng.) br. S O'Connor (Inf. 5-3: P Determine Geol br. S At (Palo 5-4, 2 Produce (Eng.) 5: S Bigham (Sco.) 5-4: O king (Eng.) br. L Rober-son (Eng. 5-3. GUANGZHOU MASTERS (Guangghou, China) Quarter-familia: Guo Hua (China) br. O Ree (Eng. 5-3, T Orago (Malta) br. Pang Weigh (China) 5-0.

OM NATIONAL CHAMPIOSHIPS (Edghoston Pri-oxy, Birningham) Men's semi-finot: P Naci (Sco) b: S N'eads (Berts) 7-9 9-0 9-2 9-0. Women's semi-finat: S Horner (Yorks) bt S Wingto (Next)

SHIPO
NERVER GRAND TOURNAMENT (Tolipo) Ninth
days Tokseurada (unyo) (won 5, lost 4) br Manours 16-3); Higmours (5-4) br Ryoludozan (63); Tomonotana (4-5); Dashi (4-5); Kinstema
(5-4) br Angyamo (4-5); Asanoudra (4-5) br Hamanoshima (6-6); Tamalasauga (6-1) br Nomonohana (5-4); Dashindia (4-5) br Ognoshik (4-5);
Korshiki (6-3) br Kasiganji (4-5); Asanosho (63) or Ognoshan (4-5); Tochmosoka (3-6) br Terao;
(4-5); Notobeppu (2-7) br Ridiacatholo (3-6);
Astmucuma (1-8) br Manatokij (2-7); Manajanio
(4-5) br Korponovaka (2-7); Avonoshima (3-6) br Manajanio
(3-5); Takanoshima (2-7); Avonoshima (3-6) br Manajanio
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br Kusanoshima (4-5); Notonoshima (5-6)
br Kusanoshima (6-3); Takanoshima (6-0) br Kereko
(5-4).

Table tennis Table tennis
Matthew Syed, the England No 1, is at
the head of the queue for a wild card
after missing out on automatic qualifcation for this year's Olympics in Atlanta.
The Derbyshire-based player lost out in
a memorable contest with Hungary's
Zottan Battorfi in a final qualifier in Manchester on Sunday but the English Table
Tennis Association will ask the International Federation to allow Syed one
of the four wild cards available.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Filinders Perk, Melibourne): Men's singles first round: M CHANG (US) bt O R-4 (C: Repi 6-2 6-1 6-2; K Kucers (Sional) bt

Snow reports AUSTRIA 75% 90% 100% FRANCE TTALY SPARY SWITZERLAND Surre, LIMITED STATES & CANADA t3.1 t3.1 Information supplied by 5% Hut wa

## She became ill two years at-

sometimes I look back and Christian in 1972, when I was wonder if I did all that," she said. Now 53, mamed since 1979 I was diagnosed as hav- 1967 and a mother of four, she and husband Barry live in I would need medication for Perth, where they have a city home and a 5,000-acre farm.

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## Major clubs threaten to break away



STEVE BALE

English rugby union was in further disarray last night as the major clubs held a hastily convened emergency meeting in London which will push ahead with pro-fessionalism even though it has now hecome more likely to mean breaking away from the Rugby Football Union.

Yesterday the 11 clubs which form English First Division Rngby Ltd made it clear that if the RFU membership reimposes amateurism, as threatened when a second special general meeting is held within the next six weeks, they would have no alternative but to secede. Professionalism has

This declaration follows the bership then insists on untramchaotic scenes at the special melled amateurism, England would have to withdraw from meeting held in Birmingham on Sunday when first the RFU exthe International Board. ecutive's unanimous nominee to be its own chairman was easily

beaten by a grass-roots candi-

date and second when the

meeting adjourned itself so that

there could be a formal debate

and vote on the abandonment

of amateurism after 125 years.

In the meantime, the union will use an independent body to

analyse questionnaires it re-

the widely praised report of

fessionalism which the first spe-

cial general meeting declined to

discuss. David Robinson, a se-

made it clear that if the mem-

The temper of delegates rep-resenting the mass of the RFU's 2,000 or so clubs and affiliated bodies was clear by the end of Sunday's shambles, many at the International Convention Centre wanting no truck with professionalism at any level. Cliff Brittle, the new chairman and therefore the choice of most of them, now faces the unenviable task of dissuading them.

ceives from clubs in response to Yesterday he was back home on the Isle of Man after seeing the RFU commission on prooff John Jeavons-Fellows by a landslide vote of 647-332. "There is an overwhelming desire to accept what the In-ternational Board announced in nior RFU committee man,

it might have caused great problems," he said. "But the information I've got is that the general membership of the union accept a seamless game.

"Seamless" is RFU-speak for allowing every club to make its own choice about professionalism, and Brittle's remarks will come as a considerable rehef to EFDR, which comprises the current First Division of the Courage Clubs' Championship plus Northampton, the Second Division leaders.

But if the worst came to the worst at the special meeting, the small clubs were left in no doubt last night of the consequences. "I don't think anybody, bottom-line, wants to hreak away, but if the junior end of the

game forces the issue at a second special general meeting then there will be little alternative," Tony Russ, the Leicester rugby director, said.

The hig clubs' concern is mixed with incredulity that the RFU has been unable to explain that for nearly all its membership the open game adopted by the IB will make no difference. I just can't see what they have to fear from professionalism, because the amateur game will simply go on as before as it does in soccer and cricket and even rugby league," John Quin, the Bath sec-

retary, said. The fact that the England team, not to mention the rest of the world, are already professionals and that the likes of Bath and Leicester are already

putting their own forms of professionalism in place ready for the end of the season makes the delay caused by the calling of the second meeting highly in-

"One upshot of the Birmingham meeting could be that the international players might be rather concerned at the turn of events and be prepared to throw in their lot with the clubs to protect their interests," David Tyler, Bristol's club administrator, said. "There is no doubt that whoever controls the top players will

then get on to television and spousors with a clearly defined and attractive product. "We haven't got time to wait

control what happens at the top

end of the game and if we get

them on board with us we can

for another special meeting because we are talking about next season and the issue is far 100 urgent to be left any longer

There was comfort for the RFU from one unlikely source last night, however. The normally belligerent Mike Coley, Gloncester's chief executive and the official spokesman for EFDR. said: "Eleven clubs out" of 2,000 are not that important in the context of a meeting like that and we weren't much more than observers really. We've said we don't want to run rig-by, only the top professional end of the game, and 1 actually don't believe that in the end they will vote for an amateur

Small clubs appeal for unity, Five Nations focus, page 22

## No place for Stott in FA deliberations

Football **GUY HODGSON** 

England yesterday nominated the men who will choose the successor to Terry Venables, and a

bold look to the future it was not. The five-man Football Association sub-committee is notable for the lack of professional playing or managerial experience, while the average age of its members is not so much nudging the retirement number

of 65 as assaulting it.

The two unheralded kingmakers are Keith Wiseman and Chris Wilcox, who join the FA chairman, Sir Bert Millichip (81), the international committee chairman, Noel White (66), and the chief executive, Graham Kelly (50).

Wiseman, a 50-year-old lawyer and director of Southampton, also serves as the England delegate on Uefa's club competitions committee, while 72-year-old Wilcox is a JP and the FA vicechairman. He represents Gloucestershire on the FA Council.

The most notable absentee is the Oldham chairman, lan Stott, ables two years ago. It was Stott's attack on the process to extend Venables' contract which some claim crystalised the coach's decision to leave after Euro 96.

The FA insist he has not been snuhbed, explaining: "When Ian Stott was on the previous sub-committee he was the representative of the Premier League as Oldham were in the Premier League then. That role

is now filled by Keith Wiseman." The first task will be to draw up a short-list, and Kelly insisted they will ignore the initial protests of several candidates, Kevin Keegan and Gerry Francis included, who have said they are not interested. "Nobody is ruled out and nobody is ruled in," he said. The option also remains for Jimmy Armfield to canvass opinion in the game, as he did be-

fore Venables was appointed. The, FA meanwhile, has halted its attempts to mediate in the dispute between Venables and Alan Sugar, A statement said: "Some progress was made. The mediation process has now been halted for the time being.
"The mediator – Mr Charles

Woodhouse of Parrer and Co is extremely grateful to Mr Sug-ar and Mr Venables and those advising them for the immensely positive attitude they have shown in trying to find a solution."

his squad for a training sessioo at Bisham Abbey next week, and later flies to Warsaw to discuss the programme of qualifiers for the 1998 World Cup finals.



Shadow of a doubt: Andre Agassi battles against injury and back from the brink of defeat at the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday

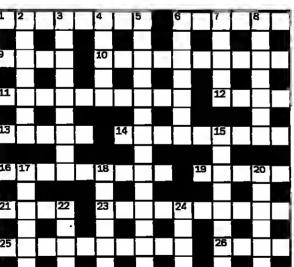
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## Agassi takes steps to avoid a painful exit

Tennis

Andre Agassi's defence of his Australian Open crown nearly came to grief in the first round at Flinders Park in Melbourne yesterday when he stumbled against a combination of a spiral staircase and an unknown qualifier, Gaston Etlis

of Argentina Agassi, the world No 2, was hampered by a knee injury, sustained when he fell into an iron rail as he climbed his hotel stairs and, with the damaged joint heavily strapped on court, the shaven-baired American slipped to within two points of defeat against Etlis, a clay-court specialist ranked 133.

Agassi finally triumphed 3-6. 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, after three bours and 18 minutes - but he admitted afterwards that he would almost certainly have lost if his inexperienced opponent

had taken his opportunities. Etlis, playing in his first grand slam event, was twice within two points of making Agassi the first

defending champion to lose to while Courier was a little more a qualifier in the first round in grand slam history.

Roscoe Tanner is the only man to have gone out in the first round while defending his title -at the 1977 Australian Open and Agassi looked to be following him as Etlis served for the match at 5-3 in the fourth set before leading the subsequent tiebreak 5-3 only for his nerve to fail.

"He was getting pretty creative in finding ways to lose the match," Agassi, the second seed, said afterwards with his damaged knee packed in ice. "I felt a hit limited about what I could do," said the Las Vegan, who added he was confident he would be fit for his secondround match against his fellow American, Vince Spadea.

Agassi's hard labours would have been avidly watched by his seeded compatriots, Michael Chang and Jim Courier, who are both in his half of the draw. Chang, the world No 5, was

ruthlessly efficient in his 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 demolition of David Rikl, of the Czech Republic,

stretched in his 7-5, 7-6, 6-4 defeat of Belgium's Johan van Herck. Chang, beaten in last year's final by Pete Sampras, now meets Jakob Hlasek in the second round while Courier faces leff Tarango.

Tarango, who caused outrage when he stormed off the court at Wimbledon last year, was perfectly behaved after a ban on him competing was overturned following an apology last month

for his extraordinary walk-off. The main casualty on the opening day of the tournament came in the women's event, where Natasha Zvereva, the 12th seed from Belarus, went down to Israel's Anna Smashпоуа 2-6, 6-4, 5-7.

Gahriela Sabatini, the sixthseeded Argentinian, impressively beat America's Shaun Stafford 6-0, 6-1 in only 52 minutes, while Arantra Sanchez-Vicario, who lost last year's final to Mary Pierce, also had an easy first-round workout against Beate Reinstadler, beating the Austrian in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2.

## Betting coup falls flat on its face

Greg Wood on the

Even for a nation of dog lovers, providing a greyhound with a smart and spotless new floor might seem a little extreme, but then whoever meddled with the traps at Sheffield greyhound stadium last Friday was motivated by more than simple goodwill.

Blue was the colour, and cheating was the game. Shortly before off-time for the regular Friday meeting, stadium staff discovered a significant alteration to the traps to be used for five of the evening's races. Each box boasted a shiny new Formica floor - with the exception of trap two, the blue box.

A fast start is all but essential

in dog racing, but the only way

trap two's rivals were going to get away quickly was if they were

wearing ice skates. The Formica

tricksters who were given a dose of the blues at the dogs was removed immediately and the meeting went ahead as nor-

mal. However, whether the rogue handymen were awarc that their scheme had been rumbled is open to question. In the first two races from the

traps in question, the dog in the blue jacket started the warm favourite, at 7-4. The first fin-ished fifth, the second trailed home third. When the traps were next called into action, all orated, and it started at 12-1.

David Baldwin. Sheffield's Sheffield who moved hinto Formica just as the fa ahle money moved out.

racing manager, said that all the traps are checked for illicit alterations before each meeting, and was also surprised that the plotters chose to target the traps used for the card's open races. They re very hard races where anything can win and the form is from different tracks, it's not as if they've all been running

around Sheffield," he said. The track has reported the incident to the National Greyhound Racing Couocil, but since any serious skulduggery was averted the case is effectively closed. If anyone is keen to track down the culprit, however, a good way to start might be to find a kitchen litter in Sheffield who moved heavily into Formica just as the fashion-

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